

**FLAKPANZER
38T (REVISITED)**

Andy King gets his hands on Tristar's state of the art release

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

Issue 34 - February 2009

E THAT'S A BIG BOAT ED

The Editor starts Italeri's huge 1:35th S-100 Class Schnellboot

COOL CAT

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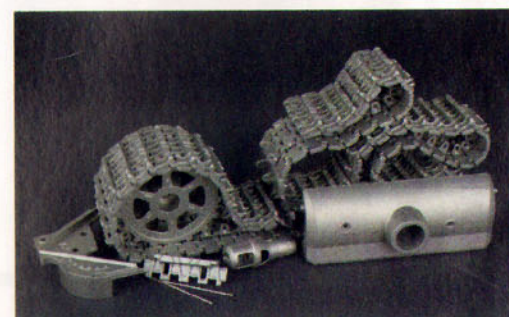
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Email problems...

From day one of starting MMI, I made a promise to the boss and myself that I would try my hardest to answer every email question and enquiry I got, but for some reason of late, I have answered several emails only to get a second asking why I never answered the first?
Our 'IT boffin' suggests that it is possible that some email software may flag the modelmilitary.com address as junk and transfer it to a junk folder. This might be avoided by adding the editor@modelmilitary.com address to some sort of 'safe list', if your software has anything like that? So to anyone who has emailed with a question, an article, contribution or even a subscription enquiry (which should actually go to enquiries@adhpublishing.com), if you haven't had a reply in a day or so, check your junk/spam folder as it may be there. Honestly, I'm not ignoring you! The Editor.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

On behalf of all at MMI I would like to wish all our readers a Happy New Year and a safe one to all who are serving on operational deployments around the World. I would also like to thank all our contributors and the manufacturers and suppliers, who have constantly supplied the fantastic articles and all of the great products we have been fortunate to review and showcase. Without whose generous support Model Military wouldn't be what it is today. Happy New Year.



WELSH DRAGON MODELS

Have recently been appointed the UK distributor for Impact products, who make all the really cool upgrade parts for Tamiya's 1:16 R/C tanks. The advantages of these Impact tracks over the kits items is they are produced from a zinc alloy and feature 'mechanically locked retaining pins' made from stainless steel, which all goes toward making them far more durable than standard 'plastic' tracks.
By the time we go to print, Welsh Dragon should have the full range in stock.
You can find further info on these and other 1:16 scale products at - www.stores.ebay.co.uk/welshdragonmodels

To celebrate Impact's second birthday, Welsh Dragon will be offering 10% discount on complete track sets and transmission units purchased before 31/1/09. This promotion is only for products ordered direct and not through the eBay shop; buyers will need to contact Steve direct to be eligible to receive the 10% discount. Welsh Dragon Models
Email: Wdragonmodels@aol.com
Tel. 01691 780106
Please note Welsh Dragon Models website should be up and running shortly.



STUDIE BOOK

Capricorn Publications and SKP Models have just announced a new dual English and Czech language reference book on the Studebaker US-6 2.5 ton Truck. This 36 page soft back publication contains detailed photos, historical photos, scale drawings, detailed drawings from the instruction manual and some very nice colour profiles. English and Czech language ISBN 978-80-903945-3-7 Available direct from www.capub.eu

THE 'STALLIES' ARE HERE

At the recent Scale Model World show, Accurate Armour were displaying their brand new 1:35 multimedia kits of the Mk-2 Alvis STALWART 6x6 HMLC. Three versions are available, General Service, Royal Artillery Limber, and REME Fitter's vehicles. The Alvis Stalwart is a true legend among all terrain vehicle enthusiasts. This unique 6x6 swimming vehicle was designed as a high capacity 5 Ton High Mobility Load Carrier (HMLC), and saw extensive service over several decades in all theatres of operation with the British Army.
These 1:35 scale resin models have been designed by Jon Bottomley and feature full suspension, accurate tyres with subtle bulging, cab internal details, an extensive etched brass detail set and full colour decals.
All three are available direct using Accurate Armour's fast and efficient mail order facility at: www.accurate-armour.com



PLUS MODEL

I love it when we get the press release in from Plus Model, because you can never tell what new kits and bits they have in store for us. This month we have another very mixed bag, but as always they are original and imaginative. My personal favourites are the U.S. Vietnam War weapons and the Town House, it's always nice to have an undamaged building to use on a diorama; not every building in WWII Europe was blown-up!
• PM35088 Field Wash-up
• PM35257 German WW2 SdAnh53 Carriage
• PM35316 U.S. Vietnam War Weaponry
• PM35320 Town House
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1:35 Town House



PLU088
1:35 Field Washing Facilities



PLU316
1:35 U.S. Weapons - Vietnam



PLU317
1:35 U.S. Ammunition Boxes cal. 7,62



PLU257
1:35 German Trailer Sd.Ah.53



PLU312
1:35 M422 Command Car



PLU318
1:35 U.S. Ammunition Boxes cal. 5,56

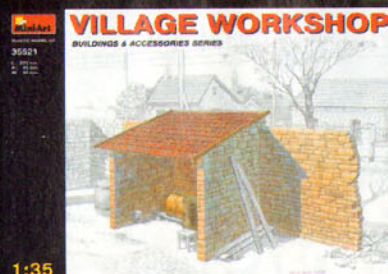


MIN35062
1:35 German Soldiers at Rest

MIN35067
1:35 Dingo Mk.Ib British Scout Car w/ Crew



35067
1:35



MIN35521 1:35 Village Workshop



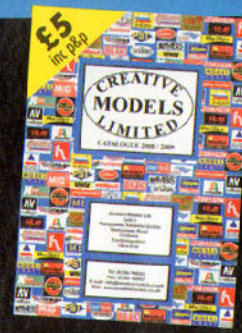
MIN36017 1:35 European Farmyard



MIN36018 1:35 Farmhouse w/Diorama Base



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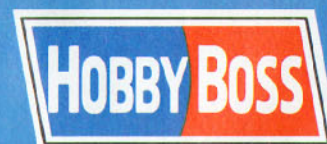
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FLAKPANZER 38T (REVISITED)



The Flakpanzer 38t Ausf L came about as a makeshift vehicle while the 3.7cm Flakpanzer IV (Ostwind) was being developed, there being an urgent need to have a self propelled AA vehicle for the panzer divisions. Therefore the obsolete Pz.Kpfw 38t chassis was chosen as it was readily available. Work started in October 1943 and production began in December of that year with 150 being ordered. However it became clear that the 2cm Flak 38 wasn't a powerful enough weapon and the last ten in the series were converted to the self-propelled Sig 33/2 as the more heavily armed Flakpanzer IV was coming into production.

THE MODEL

If the above history seems familiar to regular readers then it's because way back in issue 3 (July 2006) my very first article for Model Military International featured the Alan Hobbies Flakpanzer 38t. Then it was the only one available (and not that bad either) but now there are three brand new kits of the same vehicle in 1:35 from Dragon, Tristar and Italeri. Having recently obtained the Tristar kit (The rather nice box art helped of course) I thought it would be interesting to revisit this particular vehicle.

In the box you have a lot of parts. There are separate tyres for the road wheels, a complete

interior with Praga engine, individual track links, the later style drive sprockets and idler wheels, which feature the correct round lightening holes and lastly an etched brass fret and a length of wire for the tow cable.

CONSTRUCTION

The interior is the starting point and from what you can see through the hatches it's very well detailed. You even have the option of open or closed vents on the firewall using photo-etch, which is a nice detail. For the sake of my sanity I decided to build the lower hull first before starting on the interior detail as the floor and hull sides are separately moulded. Cementing

them together would require some clamping or taping before being left to dry. This will make for a more rigid structure to add all the other parts to.

Also if you want to show the hatches open you will need to fill in the ejector pin marks on the inside, as they are quite noticeable.

Kicking off with the transmission first and it's straight into the P.E as the transmission housing has etched parts to add, plus the driver's steering-levers are a multi-part assembly and quite fiddly to put together. The engine builds up into a nice replica of a Praga motor but if you wish to have the engine detail as the floor and hull sides are separately moulded. Cementing

Andy King's first Flakpanzer 38 review was on the rather basic Alan Hobbies kit, now he gets his hands on Tristar's state of the art release.

from the battery.

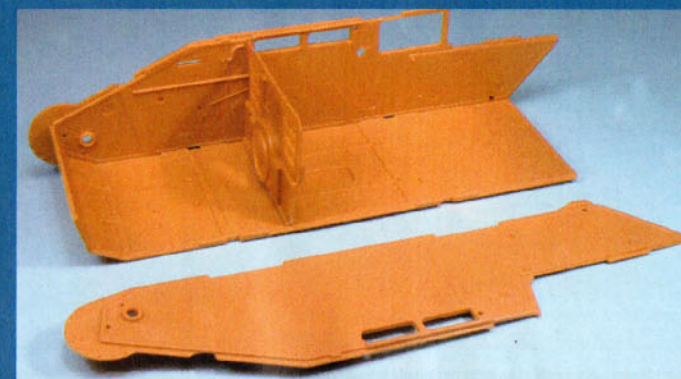
The only thing to watch out for, is when fitting part L-31 to the exhaust manifold as there is no 'L' sprue, it is in fact C-31. This part should also be down by the round hole in the side of the hull as the instructions aren't exactly clear as to where it should actually fit.

As I intended to have the engine hatches only slightly open, I didn't spend a lot of time detailing this area. The same with the driver's position as although the hatch and visor would be fully open you won't see much inside, plus the excellent detail in the kit was more than enough. I therefore fixed the transmission, engine and radiator to the inside and painted them

black in one go, rather than as sub-assemblies. I used an olive green shade for the floor, engine and engine bay then an off-white for the hull sides. I based these colours around the various interior pictures found in the MBI book of a restored Pz.Kpfw 38t and figured they would probably be correct for a Flakpanzer. The interior was then dirtied up a bit before the upper hull plates were fixed.

WHEELS AND TRACKS

The running gear and tracks were fairly straightforward to assemble. I fixed the axles to the hull but due to the delicate nature of the rear ones and my clumsiness these broke off and I had to use



This shows the basic hull construction and pin marks that need to be filled as they are visible through the open driver's hatch.



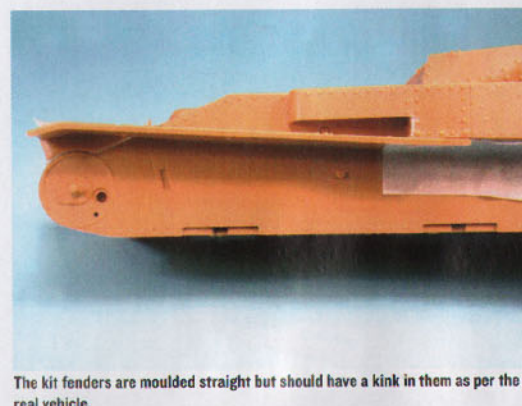
The engine compartment is very well detailed out of the box and only really needs some wiring to finish it off.



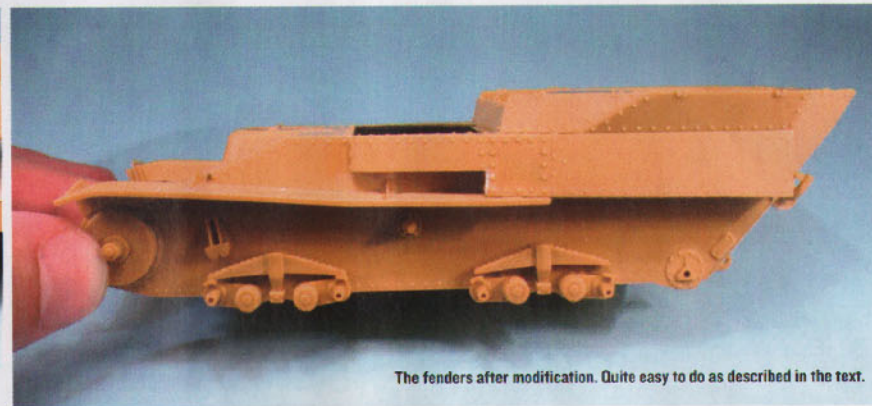
The driver's compartment, like the engine bay is comprehensively detailed from the box. Note the wealth of detail on the bulkhead.



With the interior painting underway the detail really comes to life, the leather cushioned driver's seat looks particularly realistic. This is achieved by base coating in a dark brown, followed by dry-brushing in a light terracotta colour.



The kit fenders are moulded straight but should have a kink in them as per the real vehicle.



The fenders after modification. Quite easy to do as described in the text.



Some of the kit supplied interior detail with extra etch bits from Eduard. Also spot the deliberate mistake of the small box which should be UNDER the shelf, not to one side as I did here. D'oh!



This series of pics shows the gradual build up of the individual track links. Working in sections at a time they are eventually joined together and while still pliable (around 30 minutes or so) fed around the wheels. Pieces of sprue are placed under the fenders to keep the track sag until set.



brass rod and cyano glue to re-attach them. Remember to fix the rear axles pointing up as the instructions are not quite clear how these should go either.

The wheels were dry-fitted to the axles and the track fed around them after the links had been glued together and left to dry for about

30 minutes. When completely set, the track assemblies were removed and put aside to make painting easier later.

The fighting compartment is next and features some excellent detail, with the inclusion of photo-etched parts for the 2cm ammo-box racks and separate open or

closed latches for the fold-down side panels.

I jumped ahead of the instructions here and put the sides of the fighting compartment together first, before adding the interior detail as it seemed more logical to me. The fit is good but to help the front plate (part F1) fit better, the small lip where it sits needs to be removed first. There were a couple of small gaps here and there but these were filled with cyano. This was also the case with the drop down panels if you wanted them in the raised position,

they will need a bit of filing and the hinges removing to get a flush fit, the hinges being replaced later using stretched sprue

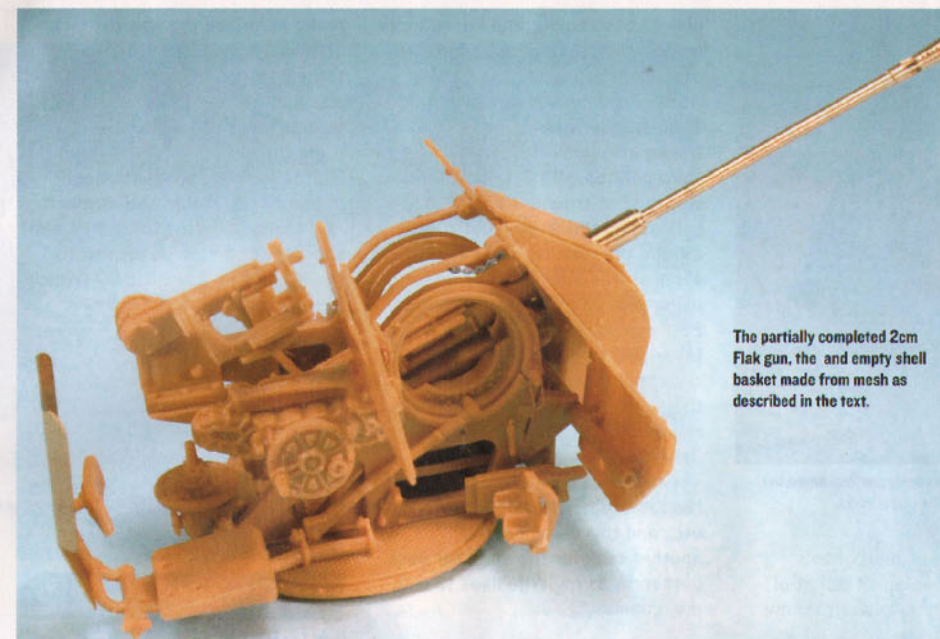
DETAILING

Moving on to the details now and you have the photo-etched radio and ammo magazine racks to bend into shape before. The sides of the radios will need some sanding to get them to fit into the racks properly, these were then left out until after the model was painted. One thing I have to mention here is that Tristar supply only one ammo box for the 2cm magazines when there should be fifteen present. Funnily enough Tristar produce a 2cm Flak ammo and accessory set (Kit No: 35036) although you



The completed model before painting. The gun and running gear are not fixed at this point.

References - Sherman Details



The partially completed 2cm Flak gun, the and empty shell basket made from mesh as described in the text.

will need two sets to get the full amount of ammo boxes. Hmmmm.... a nice little earner I suppose? However I made a mould of the one and only ammo box and cast some extras in resin.

2CM STING

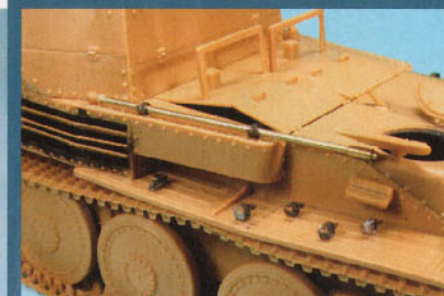
Tristar's 2cm Flak was a lovely model in its own right but for the Flakpanzer it has been retrofitted slightly from the earlier kits. Featured are the correct later style hand wheels and gunsight, plus a spent-case basket, magazine holder and sighting reticule in etch,

which the original kit never had. I did however decide to replace the kit barrel with a Schatton-Modellbau turned metal item. The quirky thing about the gun is that Tristar include a couple of working parts, which I thought was odd, but having said that, during construction they actually help to position the barrel into the required elevation. Trying to fit the etch for the shell basket is very fiddly although it actually helps to anneal the brass before (I passed it over a flame on a gas cooker) attempting to fit it to the very

delicate frame, in the end following a great tip on the Missing-Lynx website (Cheers Eddy, genius!) I used the etch as a template and made the basket from fine mesh as found in a local Hobbycraft store (wedding accessories aisle) as this stuff seems to hang better. I didn't fix the gun into the hull as per instructions as it would have been impossible to paint later on.

FENDER FIXES

The fenders are next and present a minor problem. On the real vehicle they are parallel with the hull sides then slope upward towards the front, unfortunately Tristar have moulded them straight (what is it about 38t fenders?). To counter it is a relatively painless exercise as all you



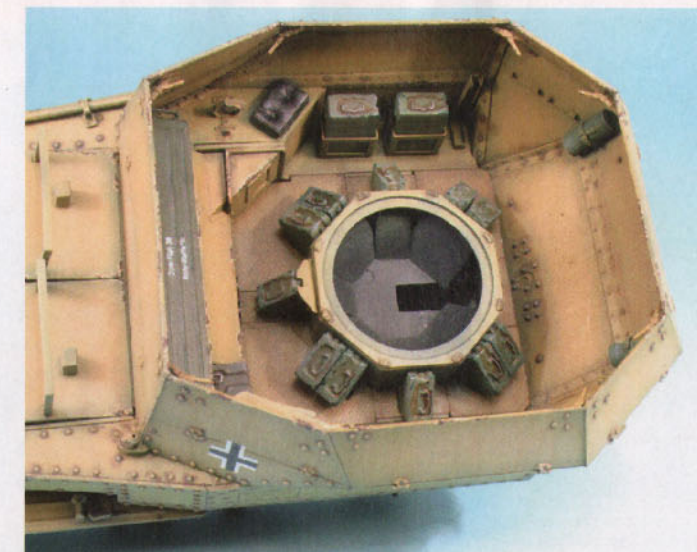
Tool clamps from the Eduard etched detail set designed for the Alan hobbies version were used to detail the kit fenders.



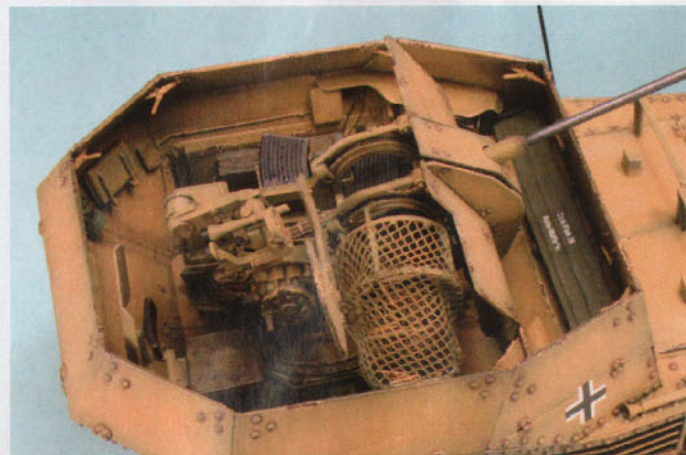
The fender mounted tool box also came from the Eduard set. Tristar must be commended for effort gone into faithfully recreating the mass of rivets used in the real vehicle's construction.

PAINTING

Games Workshop Chaos Black Primer was used to prime the model, but to be on the safe side Tamiya XF-1 Black was used to prime the tracks as some of the aerosol primers have a tendency to shrink when they dry and can end up pulling the links apart. A base coat of Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow was airbrushed overall, with XF-15 Flesh and XF-2 White added to progressively lighten the base coat on the top surfaces. No camouflage this time so X-22 Clear was sprayed overall in preparation for the decals and weathering. ▶



I made moulds of the only 2cm Ammo box supplied and cast some more in resin. They are a bit basic but for what you can see they do the job.



The interior looks nice and busy in this photo, it's just a shame Tristar only supply one 2cm ammo box with the kit, which forces the modeller to source aftermarket items to fill the empty racks.

WEATHERING

The kit decals went on very well and after sealing with a coat of Johnson's Kleer, a dark brown wash was applied using a mix of Burnt Umber oil paint and Humbrol Matt 33 Black. More localised pin washes with a fine brush were added to accentuate the various details. A 2:1 mix of Humbrol Matt 29 Dark Earth/Matt 33 Black was sprayed

around the lower hull, wheels and tracks after which a coat of Polyscale matt varnish (from my ever dwindling supply sadly) was applied over the entire model.

When completely dry, dots of various oil colour were randomly placed on the model then worked in with a flat brush moistened with thinners. This technique adds contrast to an otherwise uniform

overall base colour and I used more white spots on the upper surfaces than anywhere else. Paint chips were added next with Vallejo Iraqi Sand and German Camo Black/Brown after which the other details were painted. Mig's European Earth was dusted around the vehicle, building up the layers particularly around the running gear. The exhaust was given a rusty effect using pastel chalks. Tamiya XF-57 Buff was very lightly sprayed over the model for a bit of extra dust. I chose not to extensively weather the model as these vehicles had a relatively short service life after June 6th 1944.

Final details were added such as the radio wiring, bits of stowage etc., and there you have it, another tank for the shelf (or dust gatherers as my Wife likes to call my models)

CONCLUSION

Tristar's kit of the Flakpanzer 38t is a really nice model and one that I enjoyed building very much. The kit goes together well and the level of detail, especially the interior, is first class. The only thing that

really surprised me was the lack of ammo boxes for the fighting compartment and I thought this was a bit mean of Tristar not to include more than one.

On the whole, this kit is a big improvement to what has been previously available and as much as I'd love to give it full marks, the shortage of ammo boxes means I would have to score it 8/10 (Which is still pretty good really). ■

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Dave and Darren at Halifax Modellers World for supplying the kit.

Many thanks to Eddy Willems in Belgium who very kindly allowed me to use his idea for the empty shell basket.

Modelspec

Tristar 1:35 Anti-Aircraft tank Item No.35035

Paints used

Tamiya XF-1 Black; XF-2 White; XF-15 Flesh; XF-57 Buff; XF-60 Dark Yellow; X-22 Clear. Humbrol Matt 29 Dark Earth; Matt 33 Black. Vallejo 819 Iraqi Sand; 822 German Camo Black/Brown. Polyscale Flat Varnish. Various oil colour paints.

Weathering materials

Eduard Flakpanzer 38t etch set (35627)
Schatten-Modellbau barrel (3505)

References

Armour in Focus: Flakpanzer 38(t) published by Wydawnictwo Militaria. ISBN 83-7219-026-7
Praga LT vs.38/Pz.Kpfw. 38(t) written by Vladimir Francev and Charles K. Kliment. Published by MBI. ISBN 80-902238-2-6
German 20mm Flak in World War 2 by Werner Muller. Schiffer Publications. ISBN 0-88740-758-7

- ✓ Nicely detailed inside and out.
- ✗ Fenders moulded straight. Distinct lack of ammo boxes.

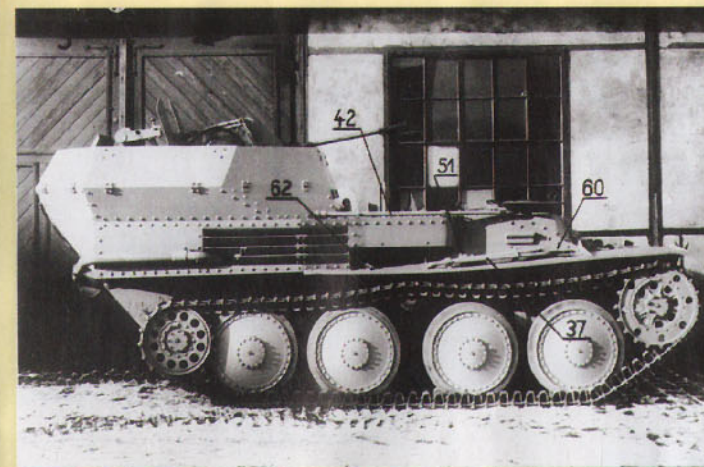
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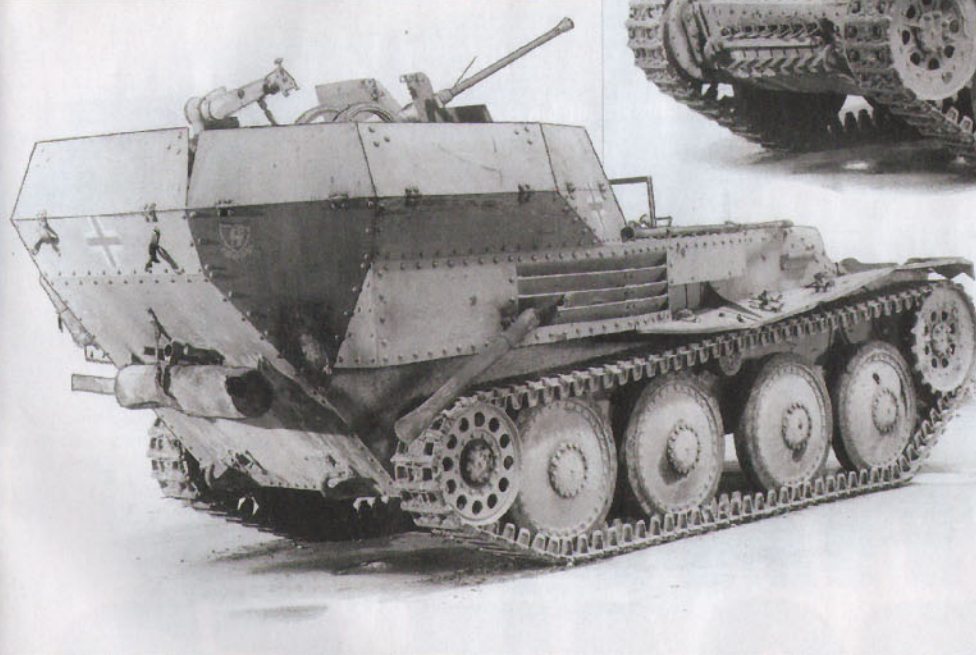
Rating ●●●●●●○○



References - Sherman Details www.militaryzone.info



◀ In this photo of a brand new vehicle, the angle change of the side fender is clearly visible.



▲ This captured example apart from some damage to the fenders is in pretty good condition.

◀ Visible on the rear corner is the lightning strike and key symbol of the 12th SS Panzer Division (Hitlerjugend).



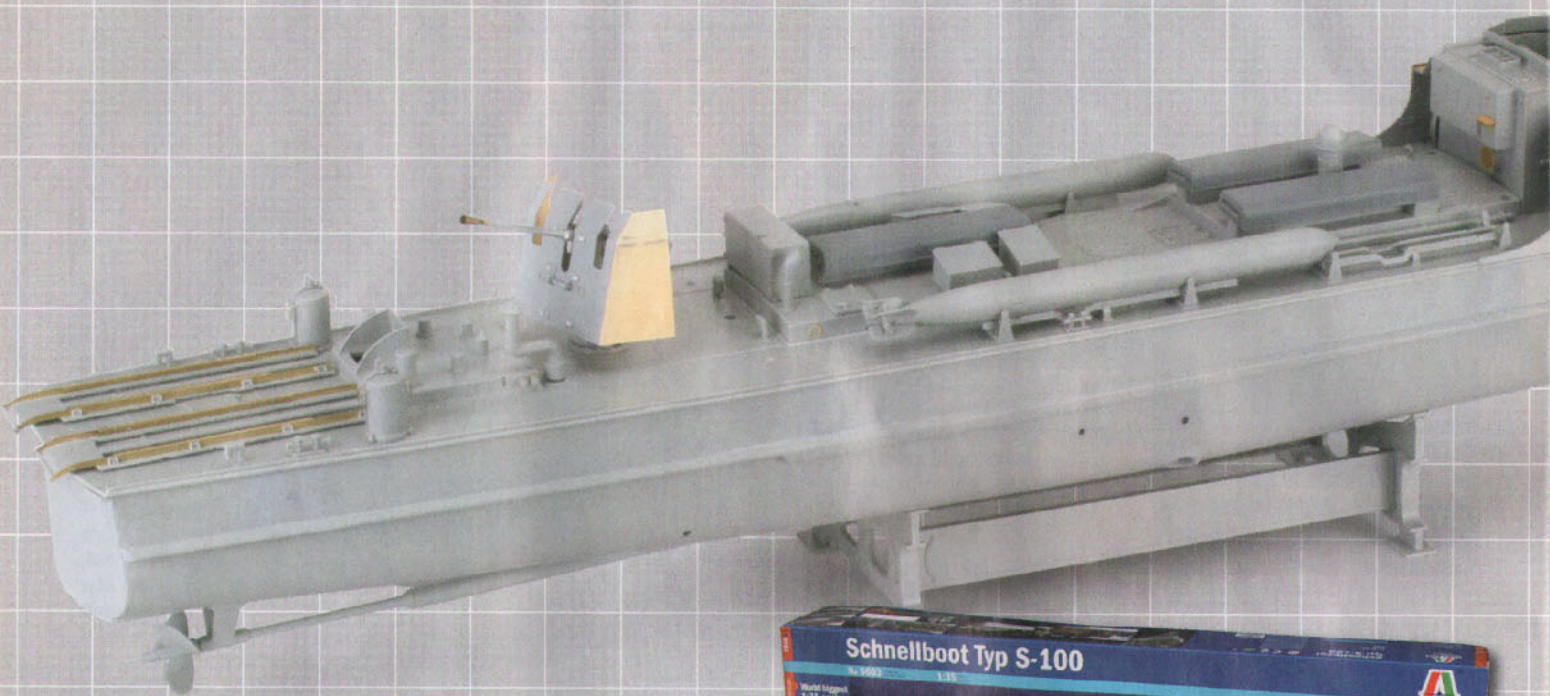
▲ The brand new vehicle taken from the otherside, this time with the shields lowered.



▲ This Flakpanzer 38t offers some interesting reference, including the camouflage pattern and vehicle number which have been painted on the insides of the shields. Note the crewman on the right carrying a spare 2cm barrel.

If this image looks familiar, it's because the author has copied the view of the real thing opposite.





E THAT'S A BIG BOAT ED

Part 1

The Editor climbs inside the ridiculously large box of Italeri's all new and mightily impressive S-Boat and has a good look around with a view to moving in and living in it!

This is definitely one of those projects that you can't rush, even if you try! This is actually quite a daunting model to build, it's not the size of it that's intimidating, it's more a case of 'at which point do you start painting and how best to tackle it?' No matter how I looked at it, I couldn't seem to be able to figure out the 'at which point to paint' some of the many sub-assemblies, that once fixed in place

would need to be re-painted due to the fact some of these parts would need a filling to get an invisible joint! I can also see this model consuming rolls of masking tape and being very time consuming to mask. Do I paint the dark grey bits first, and then mask them off before adding the Schnellbootweiss to the rest of the model or should I do it the other way around? Anyway enough about worrying that, I still have an awful lot of boat to build before I

even get to the painting stage. I have thought long and hard about how best to review this model. At first I was going to write it as a standard format article, but realised it would turn into a bit of an epic and become very word heavy and could quite easily become very boring to read through. In the end I thought it best to deal with it as a large Tech Guide. We will cover over the next couple of issues, depending on

how quickly I can actually finish it, because I'm far from that stage at the moment! ■

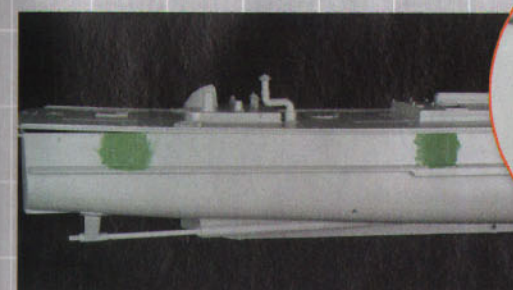
SPECIAL THANKS

To Kevin Wheatcroft for allowing me access to S-130, To Woody from Archer and Wacław from Aber for supplying their excellent products at such short notice and finally to Brian Balkwill for always being a phone call away to answer my questions.



You will need a fresh tube of filler before you start work on this kit. I have used Squadron MMD's Quick Drying Green Putty, this putty is not only easy to sand, it also has the advantage that it can be thinned with liquid cement, such as Humbrol's Liquid Poly.

There are four of these cross braces along the length of the upper hull, they perform two tasks. The first of which is to securely hold the hull together, this is achieved by the use of nuts held inside cross braces, into which screws are inserted from the outside. Their second function is to allow the deck, bridge and forecastle sections to be screwed down securely.



Once the retaining screws have been inserted, they are hidden by rectangular blanking plates.

As can be seen in this close-up these blanking plates were not the best fit and all needed filling for a flush fit. The worst on my example (and that of Marcus Nicholls, TMMI's Editor, who is building one as well) were the ones forward of the torpedo tube doors, not only did they need filling but they were also surrounded by fine rivet detail which was lost during the subsequent sanding!

On my kit, the blanking plates just aft of the bridge wings required some vigorous sanding with a coarse sanding stick to get the plate level with the hull side.

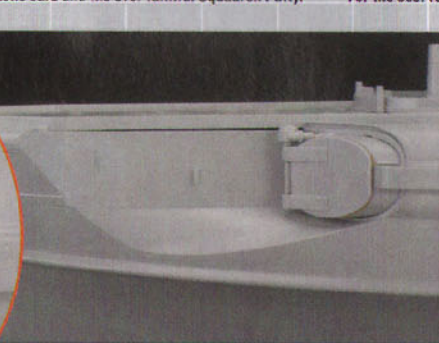
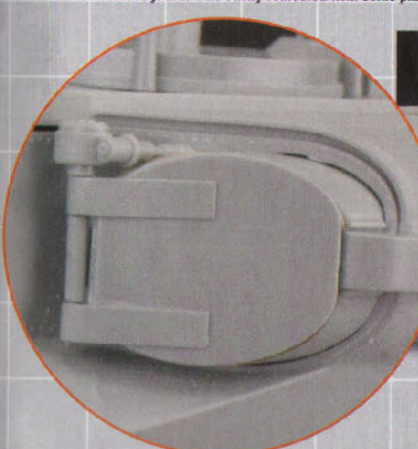
Along the length of the keel are five holes in which small self-tapping screws are inserted into to keep the keel together. As I had already glued the joint by first using Deluxe Materials Plastic Magic, followed by adding epoxy to the inside, I opted to just use the small circular blanking covers and not bother with the screws.



On the early sample I was sent, I noticed that part of the forward end of the raised deck had not been moulded correctly. This was easily remedied with some plastic card and the ever faithful Squadron Putty.

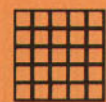


Once the putty had cured fully, the excess was removed by sanding smooth with a couple of grades of abrasive pad. For the best results it is worth wetting the surface first with water.



There seems to be a bit of a debate as to the exact shape of the cut out either side of the bow for the torpedoes. Supposedly the kit cut outs have a different profile than can be seen on wartime photos of the boats? Compare the image of the real thing with that of the kit and make up your own mind.

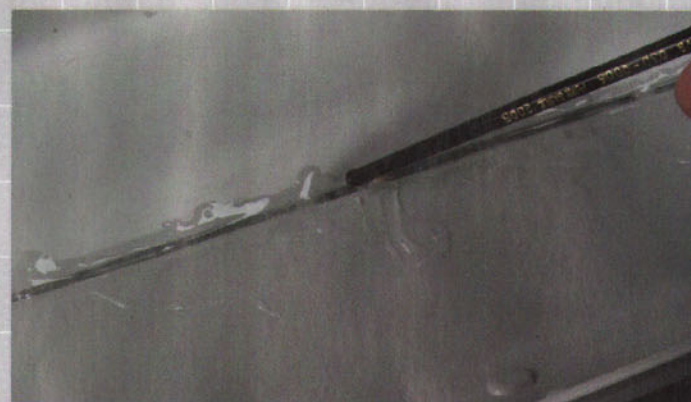




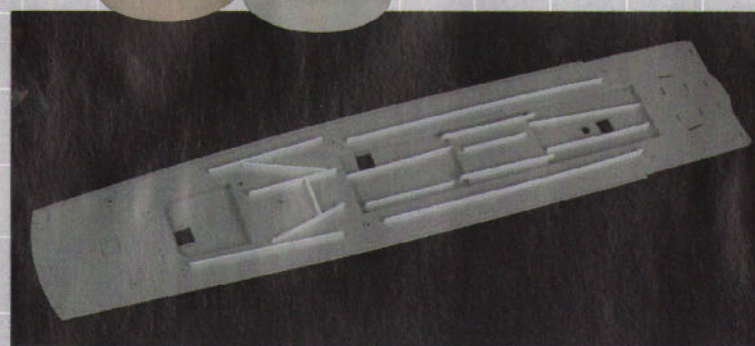
Tech Guide - ITALERI 1:35 SCHNELLBOOT TYP S-100 • KIT NO. 5603



Bob Smith Industries Quick-Cure Epoxy was used to strengthen the keel joint. Bob Smith products are available in the UK from www.horizonhobby.co.uk



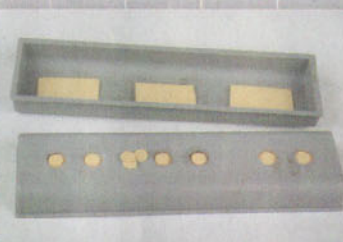
The epoxy glue was run along the entire length of the keel, as can be seen here, it doesn't have to be neat as this will not be visible once the deck is fitted.



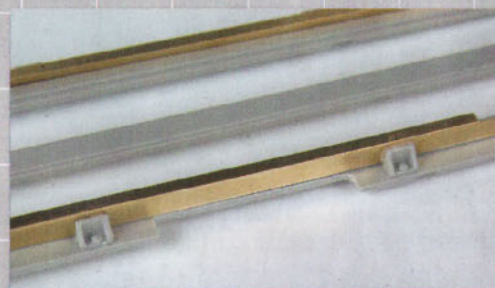
Due to the size of the main deck, it is quite flexible and could be prone to twisting and warping. To prevent the possibility of this happening, some thick plastic card was glued to the undersides.



The rectangular engine room vents, which feature six circular skylights were simplified on the S-100 Class boats by the deletion of the skylights. This was done by first blanking off the insides of the holes before punching out a number of circles using the largest of the punch and die on the good old Historex Punch and Die set. The largest size is unfortunately a little smaller than the holes, so again an area that Squadron Putty will have to come to the rescue.



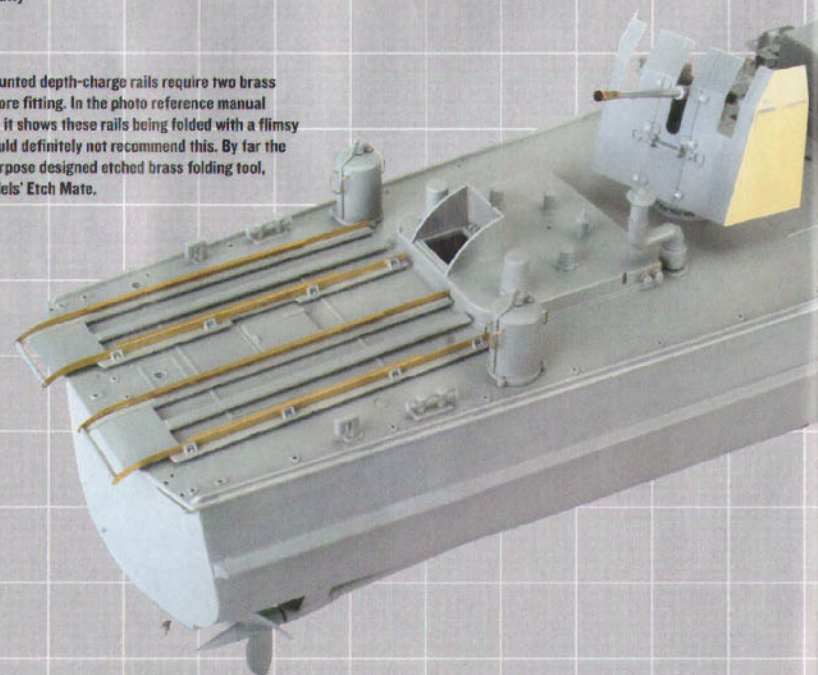
More sanding followed by painting on some Mr Surfacer, and then a final sanding guaranteed the skylights would be all but invisible under a layer of paint.



Each of the stern mounted depth-charge rails require two brass rails to be folded before fitting. In the photo reference manual included with the kit, it shows these rails being folded with a flimsy set of tweezers! I would definitely not recommend this. By far the best way is with a purpose designed etched brass folding tool, such as Mission Models' Etch Mate.



The plastic parts for the mine rails are supplied on the duplicated sprue 'D'; these parts need to be handed for port and starboard so require a notch to be cut from the inboard side of each rail.



As can be seen here, the edges of the propeller blades are overly thick; these will need to be thinned considerably before fitting.



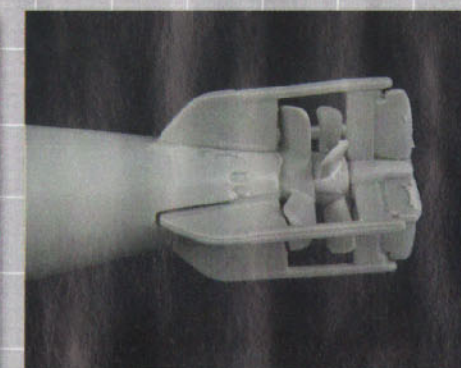
As well as thinning the edges of the blades, the mould seams also needed to be filled and sanded. I did say that you would get through a lot of filler on this build.



Detail shot of one of the real props. Note the conical tail fairing is made from a ferrous metal which has rusted. The plug is missing from the kit parts and will need to be added!



Whilst sanding the seam down along the length of the torpedoes, some of the detail was removed. This will prove tricky to reconstruct, re-scribing the lines between the different sections will be easy enough using a small strip of Dymo 3D embossing tape and an Olfa P-cutter, however the recessed screw slots will be a bit more difficult to redo.



As can be seen here the base of the tail fins will need a touch of the filler treatment!



It's clear to see here Italeri have done a good job of replicating the complex tail fin sections. Obviously there is always room for some extra detailing.



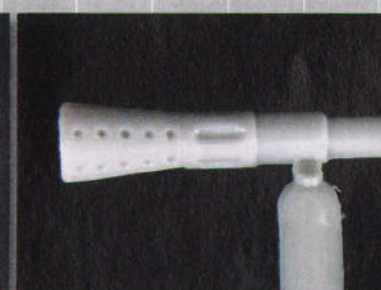
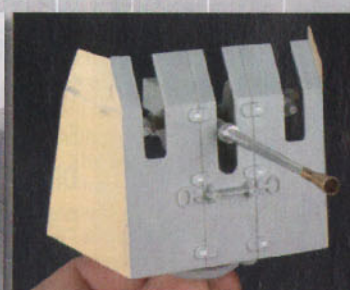
I opted to replace the kit's 20mm gun barrels with brass items from Aber, instead of ordering three separate barrels I thought it would be better to get the set of four barrels designed for the Flakvierling. The Aber items consist of a turned brass barrel and photo etched flash suppressors, which will need to be formed into their distinctive conical shapes.



The large stanchion is the compression/support post for the aft mounted 37mm gun. From this photo an awful lot of work has to go into restoring S-130 to its original condition.



The two decal options provided in the kit are for Ha-Jü and Lang, both of which surrendered to British forces in May 1945 and were berthed in Felixstowe harbour. Both these boats varied in detail from the actual kit. One of these differences is the extended side shield on the 37mm gun. No measurements were available for these shields, so they were scaled by guesswork!



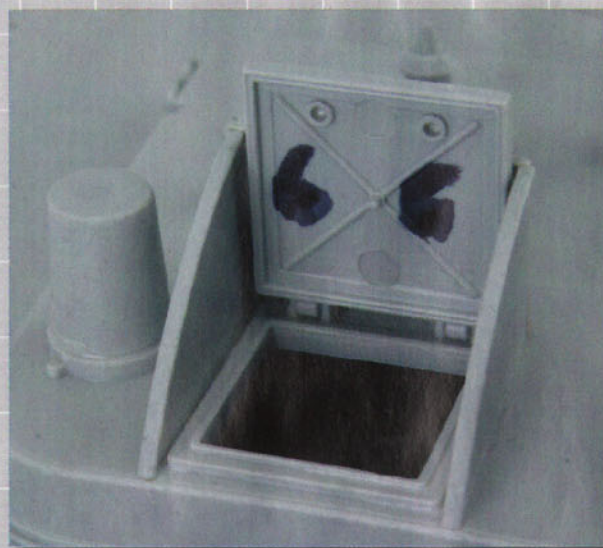
In these close ups of the kit 37mm muzzle brake and the turned brass item from Aber, it is clear to see the limitations of injection-moulded plastic.



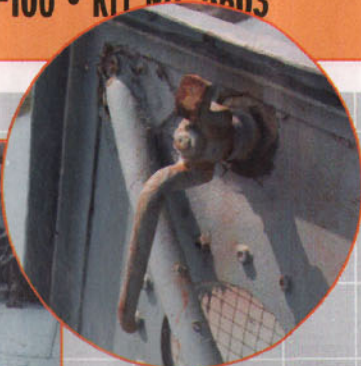


Tech Guide

ITALERI 1:35 SCHNELLBOOT TYP S-100 • KIT NO. 5603



Aft deck hatch detail, the raised section of the deck is original, however the outer hood section which hinges up and over like a bread bin lid is not.



Close-up of the retaining latch, which holds the hatch open.



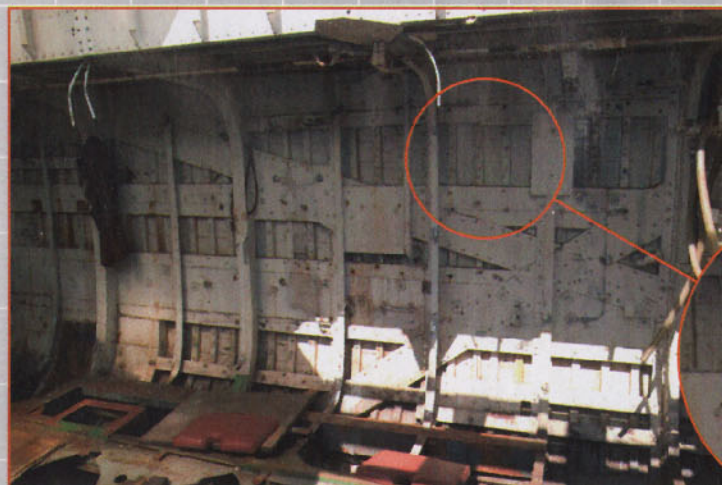
Detail shot of one of the locks used on the numerous deck hatches.



These two air vents look to be original items, but during the many career changes and modifications this boat has undergone since WWII, they are now not in their original location or original height.



I didn't notice this until it was too late, that the mould seam I had carefully removed from each of the mooring cleats should have been left on to mimic the casting seam seen on the real thing.

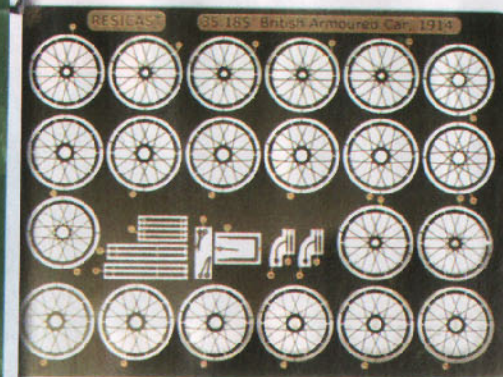


Hull construction seen from the inside, to save weight wooden planks are laid over an alloy framework.

Next Time

In our second instalment we will cover more of the detailing, including adding the missing rivets and weld seams from the armoured bridge along with more exclusive photos of the real thing...

KIT PREVIEW RESICAST 1:35 BRITISH ARMoured CAR 1914 • KIT NO. 35.1185



RESIN ROLLER

Keith Goldsworthy gets his hands on Resicast's amazing Rolls-Royce armoured car.

The first armoured car formation of WW1 was formed by the Royal Naval Air Service.

Initially some Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost touring cars were modified by adding armour-plates to the sides with a machine gun mounted behind the driver. These field modifications led to a formal design of an armoured car, again based upon the Ghost chassis. The chassis and springs were strengthened with armour-plates and a turret added. A Vickers or Maxim machine gun was installed to provide the firepower.

WW1 vehicles are not a new excursion for Resicast. Several vehicles based around the Model T Ford have previously been released. The familiar green cardboard box contains the parts to build a 1:35 scale model of this

vehicle, which saw service during the Great War. Although the Army showed little interest in the vehicle it did see active service in most theatres of War, as well as in England.

There are over 200 resin parts and 39 etched brass parts (the vast majority of which are used to depict the spoked wheels). A piece of brass wire and two silvered lenses complete the contents (aside from a very well done photographic-based instruction booklet).

The light green resin used by Resicast is (based upon other models I have had the pleasure of building) a joy to work with. The myriad of smaller parts are attached to a sprue with each part clearly labelled. Each part is listed in the instruction booklet as well as being 'tagged' in the instructions. I have been critical of Resicast's instructions in the past but this is no longer the case. The larger parts such as the bonnet (of which two were provided in my sample) have some casting blocks that will need careful removal due to the finesse of the actual part itself. The bonnet and hull sides are so thin that they are almost translucent. This is testament to the casting process Resicast have perfected over the years. The bonnet, hull and ladder-type chassis each have a strengthening web of resin, which needs to be

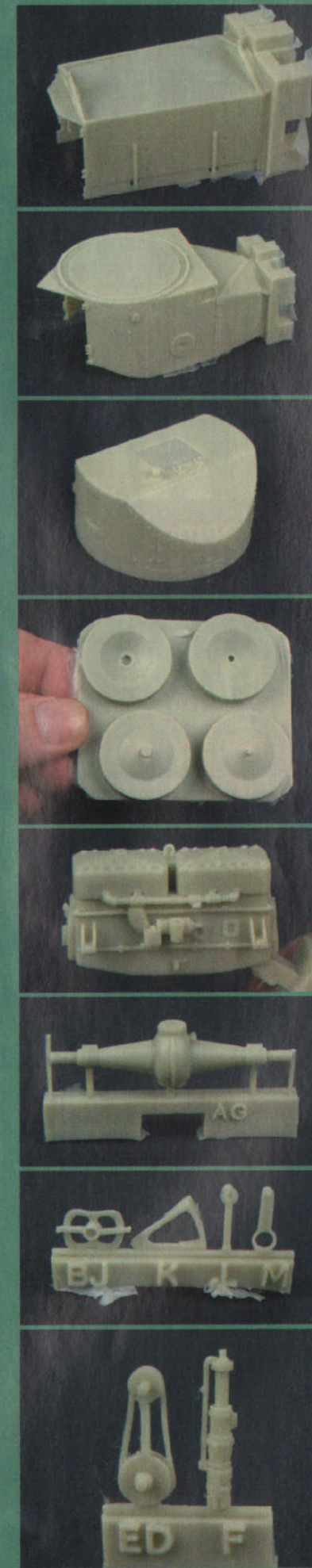
removed during construction. This web helps reduce the chance of warping, particularly with regard to the chassis. The sample provided is true in each direction.

A fully detailed engine bay and vehicle interior make it a must to depict the vehicle with hatches and doors open. The engine itself is made up of 17 parts and is a large part of the overall model.

One of the main differences between the 1914 pattern vehicle and the later 1920 pattern (one of which is on display at Bovington Tank Museum) is the presence of spoked wheels. Resicast have provided separate tyred rims with the spokes provided in etched brass and designed to be sandwiched between the wheel rims. To ensure correct shaping of the spokes a resin jig is provided. Careful reference to the instructions will be required to ensure the correct order of the spokes. Once completed the wheels are delightful models in their own right.

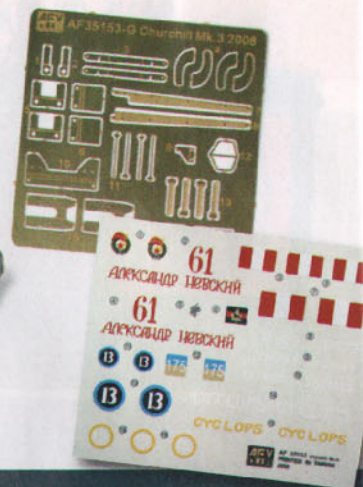
Once again Resicast have had the courage to do something not quite mainstream and have done so extremely well. Highly recommended. ■

Available from:
www.resicast.com





Metal suspension springs and etched brass fret go to make up the extra details included.



THE FIRST OF MANY?

Graeme Carruthers takes a first look at this very much anticipated release of a long overdue plastic kit of the Churchill Infantry Tank, let's hope there are other versions to follow?

This kit was announced early in 2008 and was probably the most anticipated allied kit of the year. Now the long wait is over, has it been worth it?

The Churchill is a very important tank in British history with use in World War II, the Korean War and beyond. However in plastic kit form 1:35 scale modellers have been stuck with the dimensionally dodgy and incorrectly detailed Tamiya MK. VII from the 1970s.

The AFV Club depicts a later MK. III tank, one that has received the upgrades that distinguish it from earlier models such as the newer side air intakes, appliqué armour and the large side bolts. The kit has nearly 400 plastic parts, a fret containing 29 etched parts, clear plastic parts, a turned metal 6 pounder barrel, 22 springs for the suspension units, a full colour decal sheet and a length of string to represent the tow cable.

The model starts as with most model kits with the suspension and by using the provided, and quite in-scale looking springs then you can make a fully articulating suspension. This is a nice touch

for diorama builders and can make the finished model look more interesting.

The first nine stages of construction deal with the suspension units and the side parts of the kit so you can see how much attention these areas have received from AFV Club!

Once the side units have been assembled, the rest of the lower hull is built up from separate panels, no single piece lower hull tub in this kit I'm afraid. You have to make sure that all the parts are correctly aligned and square or else things will not fit properly. The driver and co-driver hatches and the engine hatches are all provided as separate pieces however neither interior detail nor engine is provided. This is however a good thing as it allows the aftermarket companies to fill out these areas and if you do buy these sets then you won't have to perform major surgery to your kit to fit them. The metal rods on the engine deck that allow the hatches to be supported when open are strangely missing and will need to be fabricated from rod or wire. The long flat handles found on the outside of the hatches

are provided as separate pieces and not as the solid 'blobs' found on the old Tamiya kit. A nice touch.

The large track guards are provided as separate pieces just like on the real vehicle meaning that you can personalise your tank by choosing to leave a number of these off as can be seen on wartime Churchill photos. With the side air intakes you have the option of putting on the sheet metal covers, so if you are modelling a specific vehicle you will need to check photos to see if your vehicle had them fitted.

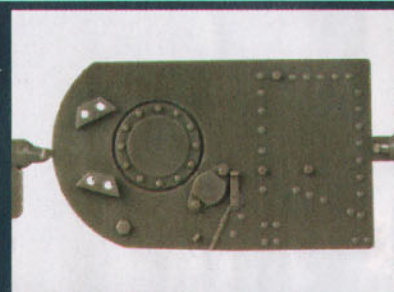
The tracks are of the single-piece rubber band variety and are quite well detailed although there are moulding pips on the outer face of every eighth link that will need removing. Unlike most rubber band tracks these ones don't have locating rods and holes at the join area for you to glue or heat weld. It is just a plain butt joint that may not be the most strongest method of construction however if you do wish you use a lot of superglue or heat welding to secure this joint then the area can easily be hidden under one of the large track guards. AFV Club have however announced

a set of individual link tracks, which will be sold separately.

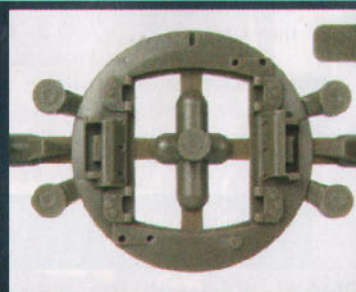
The front trackguards have the small triangular bump stops moulded as solid pieces and these should best be replaced with plastic card or an etched piece.

There are plenty of nice touches found throughout the kit including subtle weld seams around the turret and numerous crisply detailed bolt heads. The Besa machine guns have etched sleeves which give a good in-scale appearance, however the ends of the barrels themselves still need to be drilled out. The turret contains no inner detail except for a rudimentary gun breech, so will look a bit empty if the hatches are left open.

The decals provide four options, two vehicles in North Africa, a Canadian tank in Britain and a Russian lend lease vehicle. The Kingforce tank depicted at El Alamein was one of the six Churchills to take part in the battle and photos of this tank and at least one other show them fitted with the older squared turret box, not the one with the chamfered corners as provided in the kit. There was



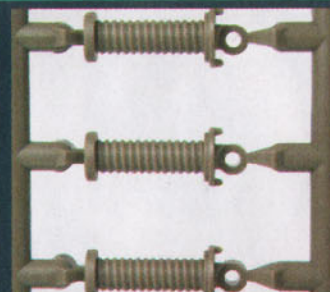
The rear section of the sponson is nicely detailed, superdetailers might want to replace the moulded on spring.



The commander's Cupola features separate hatch retaining locks.



Idler wheels and sprockets are well detailed even though they will be hidden.



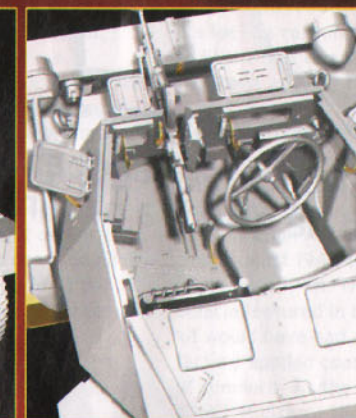
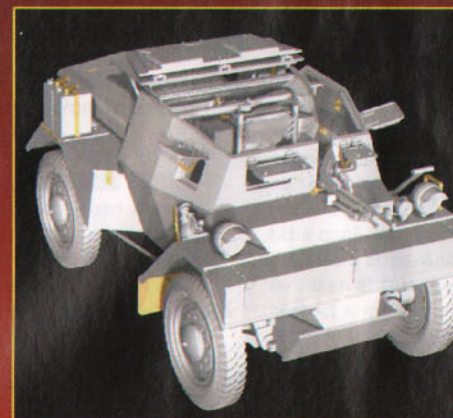
The inner shock absorber units are injection plastic, the metal springs are fitted over these.

www.miniart-models.com

PLASTIC MODEL KITS
SCALE 1:72, 1:35, 1:16



Create History!

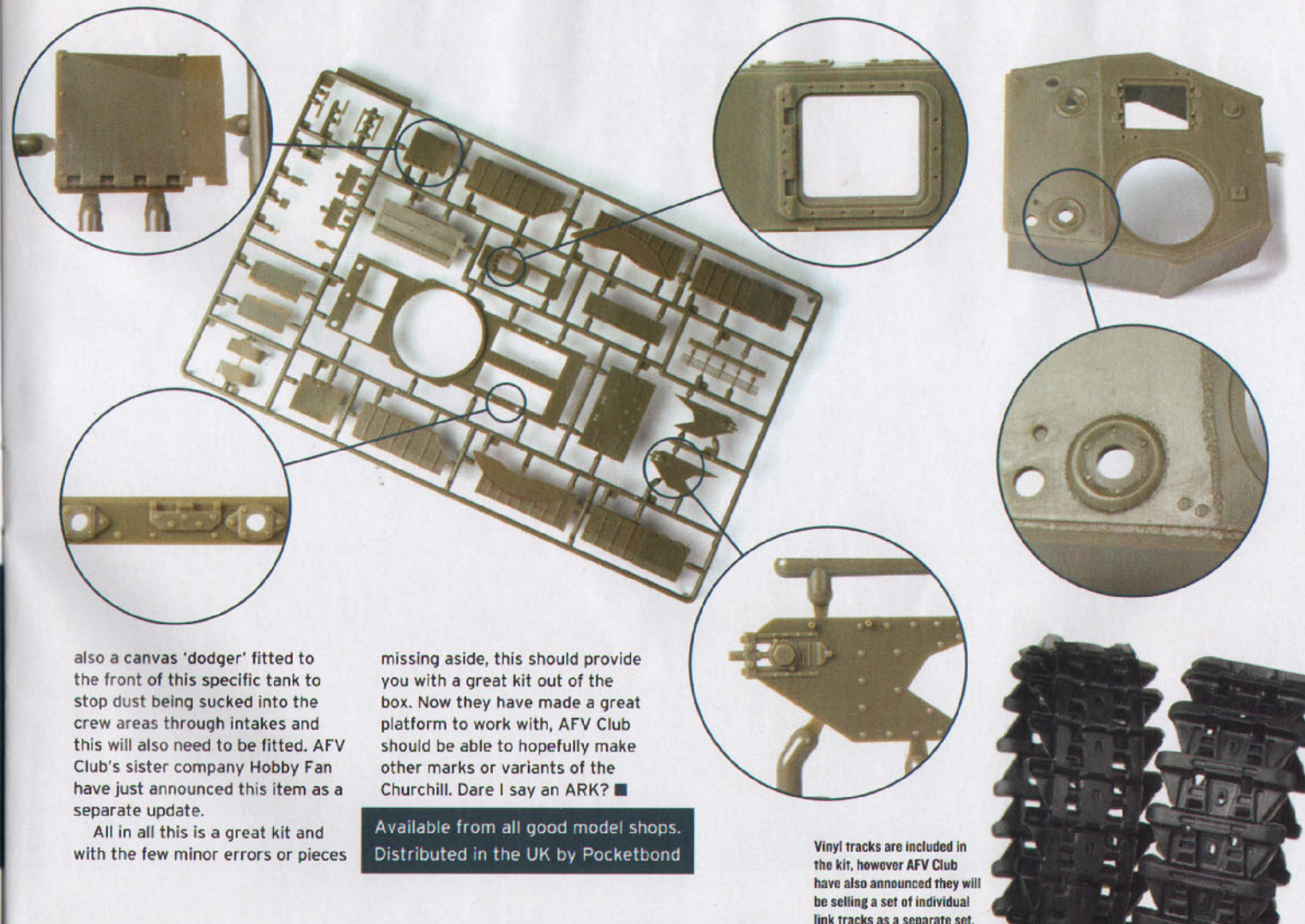


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35067
1:35



also a canvas 'dodger' fitted to the front of this specific tank to stop dust being sucked into the crew areas through intakes and this will also need to be fitted. AFV Club's sister company Hobby Fan have just announced this item as a separate update.

All in all this is a great kit and with the few minor errors or pieces

missing aside, this should provide you with a great kit out of the box. Now they have made a great platform to work with, AFV Club should be able to hopefully make other marks or variants of the Churchill. Dare I say an ARK? ■

Available from all good model shops.
Distributed in the UK by Pocketbond

Vinyl tracks are included in the kit, however AFV Club have also announced they will be selling a set of individual link tracks as a separate set.

COOL CAT

Kev Smith reviews Dragon's latest Jagdpantther and he loves it, so why did he give it a pasting?



Dragon has added a gem to their line of smart kits, the Jagdpantther Ausf.G1 Early production, Sd.kfz 173. The slide-mould technology has greatly improved the quality and ability to mould the more complex parts. The quality of the parts are exceptional, but for the parts that would be impossible to reproduce in styrene such as the engine grilles there is a small fret of photo etch included. The new release has nothing in common with the previous Imperial series released by DML but does borrow heavily from the recent Panther G kits.

LOWER HULL AND RUNNING GEAR

I started with the road wheels, Dragon have done a good job here, these are nicely detailed with the rim bulge and the correct 24 rim bolts. The rubber rims on the road wheels are always seen to have damage of some kind inflicted to them, from being nicked and gouged, to completely missing from the wheel. To replicate this I took a small metalwork file and

dragged it across the surface of the rubber rim, I find this chews up the surface nicely. With three or four of the wheels distressed and placed to one side I moved onto the hull. Assembly of the hull is straightforward, the lower hull comes as a conventional tub with the torsion bars and swing arms as separate parts. The swing arms sit in the neutral alignment when fitted, but by simply removing the small stops, the running gear can easily be modelled articulated. Dragon have included new housings for the final drives, which include the separate rollers in the kit, but have left the older style housings in the box, care should be taken to use the correct parts (H7, H8). The instructions are a little confusing when it comes to the swing arms, and care should be taken at this stage to fit the correct arms as there are three types included in the kit.

It's worth mentioning also that on the second axle arm there is a prominent raised weld seam that runs along the top of it, this should not be confused with the

small seams on the other swing arms which are just mould seams and should be removed. With the swing arms in place, the road wheels were fitted. The outer sets of wheels were left off for ease of painting and the weathering process. As with most of the newer kits from Dragon the tracks are the Magic Tracks, these are designed to press fit together, but do benefit from a touch of cement between each link to reinforce the joint. It's for this reason that I decided to fit them at this stage, and to paint and weather the tracks fitted in situ, rather than have them disintegrate on me at a later stage.

ZIMMERIT

Zimmerit was applied to all German AFVs from August 1943 to September 1944. The vehicle featured in the kit would have had a factory-applied coating of Zimmerit. As the kit does not include the pre-moulded coating, this would have to be added.

When it comes to replicating Zimmerit, the finish can be created in many ways. The more conventional way is with putty as I have done on this model, or you can carve into the plastic with a Pyrograph, and more recently you can now get pre-moulded resin sheets. It's a little surprising that Dragon haven't included Zimmerit as they have with the recently released Kingtiger, Tiger I and Panther kits, as the finish is quite convincing. It's even more puzzling that every picture of the G1 that I have come across features a Zimmerit coat. I'm afraid the bottom line is an accurate model of this vehicle can't be produced without a coating of Zimmerit. ▶

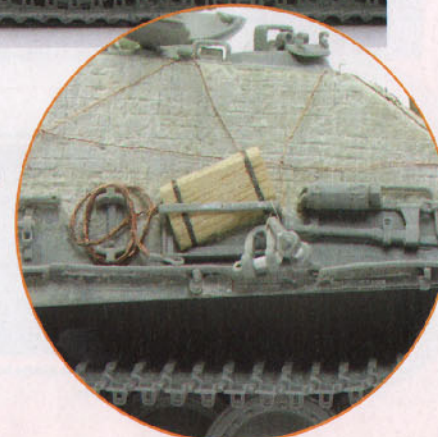
The materials used to make the Zimmerit included Sylmasta Magic Sculpt, talcum powder, a glass plate and rolling pin to roll out the Magic Sculpt very thinly.



Here we can see the dented gun cleaning-rod holder. Note the cleaning rods starting to fall out of the end, these are made from 40thou plastic rod.



As this is a Smart Kit, the etched brass included has been kept to an absolute minimum. Note that the tool clamps are modelled to the tools and look very good. The jack block has been made from balsa wood.





The completed model ready for painting, the out wheels have been left off to make painting the tracks and inner wheels easier. The grids in the foreground are the tools made by the author to add the pattern to the Magic Sculpt zimmerit.

GETTING STUCK IN

So what I will concentrate on is the application of the zimmerit. This subject has been covered in numerous articles before I know, but I hope it will be of some help. The first consideration with the Jagdpanther is the pattern, the size of the grid is all important and consists of series of horizontal and vertical lines about 3-4 cm square scored into a roughly applied paste. The common mistake is making the squares too big. To make life easier, I made a tool to replicate the pattern; I thought spending a little time making a tool would be easier than spending hours reproducing the finish by hand! Strips of appropriately thin plastic card were glued side on, about 1mm apart, to a 4cm-ish square of plastic.

A handle was fashioned from more plastic card and I was ready to go. When using putty, it's important to work on one area of

the model at a time and let the putty dry fully before moving to the next to avoid damage. The rear plate was the most difficult, with a lot of details and fittings to work around and to take into account. The two stowage bins were left off for two reasons, firstly to work on them separately, and secondly leaving them off also allows access to the more difficult areas of the plate. It's not worth worrying too much about getting a regimented spacing to the strips as reference pictures show that the finish wasn't that precise; I made a smaller version of the tool for these more awkward areas. With hindsight I would have left the strips to overhang on the tool by about 1mm, this would have helped with aligning the pattern along the superstructure sides.

MAGIC SCULP

My material of choice for the zimmerit for this model was Magic

Sculp. This is a two-part putty which is kneaded together in equal quantities, until thoroughly mixed. As I intended to roll the putty flat under a small rolling pin I wanted to take the stickiness out of the putty and adding a little talcum powder to the mix did this. It's always a good idea to key the surface of the model before attempting to apply zimmerit and this I do by rubbing the surface with a Scotch-Brite pad.

Another consideration is to keep the thickness of the putty as even as possible, so when the pattern is embossed into it, it doesn't bulge from the pressure. For the pattern I found it best to start with the horizontal lines first. I cleaned the tool off regularly with water, as the last thing you want is for the putty to stick to the under side of the tool and peel off. When I was happy I turned the tool through 90 degrees and repeated the process and once happy with

the finished zimmerit, I carefully stippled the surface with a cut down wet brush to replicate the rough texture.

ADDING THE DETAILS

I started with the engine deck by adding detailing work, such as weld seams around the fittings, this was done by adding a small amount of putty around the bases of the lifting lugs and then with a cut down tooth pick added the weld pattern. The only PE provided in the kit is the mesh for the grilles! The tools come with moulded on clamps; unlike many of the other recent Dragon kits, there are no PE alternatives, but on the plus side the clamps do look convincing.

Moving around to the side, the jacking block was scratch built, I used balsa wood cut to the dimensions of the kit part with metal bands sourced from the spares box. The tube mounted on the hull side that houses the gun



The Zündapp motorcycle is from an old Italeri set and was detailed using copper wire to add clutch, brake and throttle cables along with other missing wiring. New springs were also fashioned from wire for the seat springs.

cleaning rods and spare antennas was next. I wanted to add a little interest to this area and decided to have the rods spilling out the open end of the tube, the rods were cut from plastic rod with the ends drilled out to represent the female fittings.

ROOF DETAILS

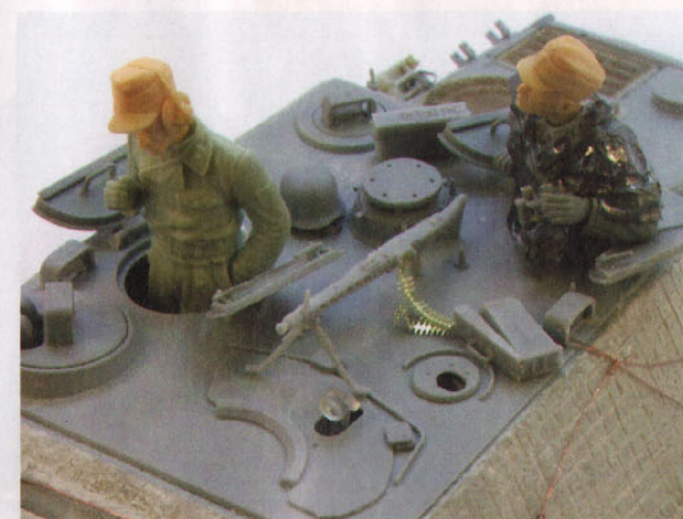
All that remained was to fit the superstructure roof section and all of the hatches, ventilators and sight apertures. All the hatches have the grab handles and levers included. As you would expect detail on the inside of the Jagdpanther is very sparse, so crew figures are needed if you want to model the hatches open. Mounted in the central area of the roof is the extractor fan, Dragon give you a choice of adding an armoured cover and if you do, Dragon have included the tiny

wing nuts. Another nice touch is the moulded-on casting numbers on the smaller vent cover behind the commander's hatch. Finally the Nahverteidigungswaffe (close protection weapon) was fitted with the open port to add a little interest.

I wanted to place the Jagdpanther in Normandy just after the landings. As the Allies had supremacy in the skies over the Battlefield, I wanted to create a sense of survival by the crew by adding some wire wrapped around the upper hull and barrel so the crew could drape foliage to camouflage the vehicle from the air. The front has been draped with some old chicken wire, cut from material normally used in dressmaking, and ideal for this task.

BROKEN BIKE

The idea for the Zündapp



The figure holding the umbrella is from Royal Models, whilst the other is from the Dragon Achtung Jab set, this one has had a Zeltbahn added from lead foil. Both have received new resin heads.

bike carried on the back of the Jagdpanther came from a photograph in the excellent book 'Tigers on the Western Front'. The Zündapp came from the Italeri kit (316) and was built, pretty much from the box with one or two improvements. I started with the two springs under the rider's saddle, these were replaced with springs made from thin wire. The electrical cabling and brake cables were also added from thin copper wire. The rear tyre was cut off just below the rim and reshaped with Milliput to represent a flat tyre. Finally the spokes were thinned down with a modelling blade.

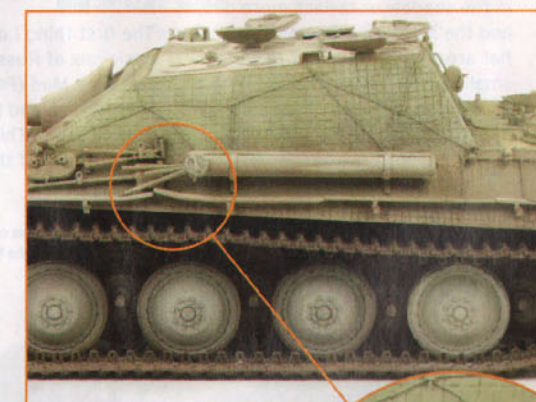
PAINTING

I mentioned at an earlier stage that the tracks would be painted and weathered in

situ. To make life easier the model was kept as two sub-assemblies, the upper and lower hull, this meant that I could get at the tracks to work on them. The outer road wheels were also left off so the guide horns and the inner surfaces of the track links could be weathered.

After a coat of grey plastic-primer the sub-assemblies were temporarily fitted together before being airbrushed in Tamiya Flat Brown (XF-10) thinned with Tamiya thinners (X2-OA). This would act as a pre-shade coat and would add depth to the model. Subsequent layers were sprayed onto the upper hull with Tamiya Flat Earth (XF-52) sprayed down at an angle to make full use of the pre-shade. Next Tamiya Dark

To create the graduated paint finish the author first sprayed on Tamiya Flat Brown, this was followed by progressively lighter shades spraying from a high angle to achieve a natural shadow below details etc.



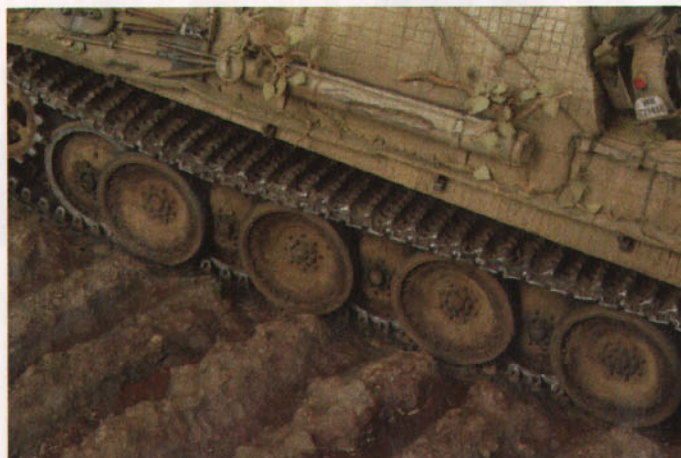
Here we can see how this graduated effect has worked on the hull side and running gear. Note the out wheels have been left off and painted separately



The only extras added to the model came from the spares box, in this shot we can see etched brass chain from both Aber and Eduard has been used to detail the spare track hangers.



Close-up of the motorcycle reveals the flat tyre created by sanding off the bottom of the tyre and re-sculpting using Milliput. Engine grilles are the only etched brass parts included in the kit.



The mud for the ploughed field was made by mixing wall filler, PVA glue, sand and real soil into a thick paste, this was then shaped into the furrows and then left to dry for a couple of days.



The chicken wire mesh used to attach camouflage has been made from a wedding dress veil material and is perfect for this type of fencing. Note the water that has pooled in the base of the mantlet.

Yellow (XF-60) and Desert Yellow (XF-69) were mixed and sprayed using the same technique. The mix was gradually lightened and the process repeated, finishing off by adding Tamiya White (XF-2) and highlighting the upper surfaces of the model. With this done the model looked stark to say the least! The next stage was to tone the model down. A light colour wash was made up from oil paints (Abteilung 502 Ochre 92, Industrial Earth 90, White and Chrome Orange), this wash helped to unify the base colours. After leaving the oils to dry for a couple of days I started on the local washes and for this, I used a slightly darker tone of the previous wash. I use these to subtly enhance the natural shadows. I tend to use the darker washes on the areas of the model that would be naturally in the shadow or collect more dirt, and the lighter washes on the large flat areas, it's important to work in small sections at a time. It's a time consuming process, which can be accelerated with the help of a hair dryer. But the results are worth it.

CHIPPING

This was kept mainly to the roof/mantlet areas. Scuffs and scratches were added with Scotch-Brite. This is a useful and easy technique and has a multitude of uses - a small corner of the pad was torn off and dipped into the mix (I use Vandyke Brown and Paynes Grey oils) the excess is then removed on tissue paper, and the pad is then dabbed onto the model. Due to the long drying time of oil paints, any mistake can easily be rectified or removed with a damp brush. A 00 brush was used for application of the lighter superficial scratches and scuffs. The edges are then blended in with a second brush dampened with thinner; this helped to soften the contrast between the newer layers and the base colours.

MAKING MUD

The first thing I did was to make a basic mix of Russian Earth (PO34) and Dark Mud (PO33) with a drop of PVA glue and blended this into a thick paste. This was applied to the whole of the lower hull

including the inner road wheels and tracks. Next a lighter mix of Gulf War Sand (PO37) and European Dust (PO28) was applied using the same method, but concentrating on the rear of the vehicle, this was repeated until the right effect was achieved. A final splattering of the dark mix was blown onto the rear of the vehicle with an airbrush to simulate fresh wet mud.

FIGURES

The crew are from Royal Model and Dragon, the latter had a Zeltbahn added from lead foil; I used Magic Sculpt to fill some of the unnatural creases in the foil, the only other modifications, were to add a new resin head from the spares box. The faces and hands were painted with an acrylic flesh base colour before shadows and highlights were added using oil paints. The uniforms were painted in a similar way. Gloss varnish was flicked onto the umbrella and bike saddles to simulate light drizzle that the crew are sheltering from.

A BASE WITH A DIFFERENCE

Dioramas look better if you make your scene with some type of viewing angle or level. Flat dioramas can look plain and seem very two-dimensional. With this in mind and after some thought I came up with a ploughed field with an added slope. The slope I hoped would add some contrast to the furrows. To start with, some insulating foam board was cut to size and mounted onto a picture frame. I tidied the sides with balsa wood, which in turn was faced with thin plastic card.

A thick mix of filler, PVA glue, sand and real soil was shaped into furrows and left to dry. After a couple of days the ground work was sprayed different shades of brown and then it was time to add the Jagdpanther onto the ground work,

after a little filling and touching up here and there, I felt I had finished. After posting a couple of photographs on www.missing-lynx.com (thank you all for the feedback) I added some muddy pools and a coat of satin varnish to give the mud that definitive wet look.

CONCLUSION

Well what can I say, this is a fantastic kit, highly detailed with no real great need for aftermarket products. If you're prepared to put some time into this one you will achieve an outstanding finish on this classic piece of German armour.

Modelspec

Dragon 1:35 Jagdpanther Sd.Kfz. 173 Ausf.G1
Early Production Smart Kit Kit No.6458

Materials

Magic Sculpt.

Paints used

Tamiya
Thinners (X-20A), Flat Brown (XF-10),
Flat Earth (XF-52), Dark Yellow (XF-60),
Desert Yellow (XF-69), White (XF-2)
Oil paints
Abteilung 502 Ochre 92, Industrial Earth 90,
White, Chrome Orange, Vandyke Brown, Paynes Grey.

Pigments

Russian Earth (PO34), Dark Mud (PO33),
Gulf War Sand (PO37), European Dust (PO28)

Figures

Royal Model German Tanker in Italy 1944 (415)
Dragon, Achtung Jabo set (6191)

Detail/ moulding.

No zimmerit, no separate tools and clamps.
Strange that no Schürzen are included in the kit.

Available from

Mig Productions and Plus Model are distributed by
Creative Models in the UK
Tigers on the Western Front by Jean Restayn
Available from www.worldwartwoobooks.com

Rating ●●●●●●●●



Detail shot of the two crew figures. Note the commander wears the reed green Sturmartillerie uniform and not a black panzer uniform.



The Zündapp on the engine deck was copied from a photo the author saw in the excellent Tigers on the Western Front book by Jean Restayn.



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Mark Peacock, standing proudly behind the ADH Publishing stand, all that's missing is MMI's Editor, his passport and display models. oops!



Just part of the venders' area, there were plenty of bargains to be had from the many traders attending.

A SHOW TOO FAR (IF YOU FORGET YOUR PASSPORT!)

Andy Horton reports on the Scale Model Factory show in Eindhoven, Holland and by all accounts was a show not to be missed.

I was supposed to be tagging along with Mark Peacock (Mr. P) and MMI's Editor to see the show, but due to unforeseen circumstances of the Editor losing his passport just before setting off, I ended up having to help Mr. P with the magazine stand and become a temporary member of ADH Publishing to earn my keep!

The trip to Eindhoven is only two and half hours from Dunkirk and, aside of tackling the Antwerp ring road, was seamless so there was no need for the immortal question "Are we there yet?" or "I'm bored".

From a purely armoured modellers' point of view this show was fabulous. Not a plane in sight on any of the club stands or in the competition arena. The Dutch are seriously into their armour, with several of the dioramas, having appeared in MMI over the past couple of months. I have to say the photographs in the magazine don't do them justice, and the standard in the competition was exceptional. I kept going back during the day to see the new entrants, and it just made me more depressed!

It was interesting to see how a European show is run, and there are several differences. The clubs only have a small display area, with the rest of their space being taken up with the members actually modelling, including the use of daylight lamps, mini drills etc. If you have a question they are more than willing to impart their techniques and knowledge. There were clubs from Holland, Belgium and Germany.

The show was held at a local college, with plenty of space so it didn't feel cramped. All the club members were constantly running around and, due to the size of the show they had to involve their wives, girlfriends, and other local clubs in the organisation.

The most interesting aspect was the kids club, which allowed kids to have a go at modelling under supervision. I saw no kids get up and leave half way through; it was great to watch them so enthralled and looking pleased at the end result. There was no charge for this, and nine times out of ten Dad was there and this was probably

the first time he had looked at a kit in 20 plus years. No sign of health and safety anywhere. Something our nanny state could learn from.

There were also demonstrations from Per Olav Lund from Norway & Joaquin Gazquez Garcia from Spain, probably two of the best figure painters in Europe, with the demonstrations being projected onto a large screen so that everyone could see their techniques. Again questions could be raised.

The amount of traders was very diverse coming from Poland (Adalbertus), Scotland (Friendship Models), England (Historex, Retrokit and ADH Publishing amongst others) and Resicast from the Low Countries, supplying well known resin after market sets, kits, figures and other sundry items. Belgium's Unicorn Models' maps, flags on proper flag material and transparencies of stain glass windows were particularly noteworthy. I was drooling by this time and in seventh heaven.

The show attracted approximately 1500 people -some

even brought their dogs!

The impression I got was that the show had the feeling of a fun day out, and was supported by the community. On the drive there I saw no signs for the show, so I presume that there must have been a lot of advertising in the local press, it was mentioned in MMI and of course on their own website.

MMI was well received and we were constantly answering questions and selling back issues and subscriptions. We almost sold out!

At the start I mentioned that there were no planes anywhere. Well this was not strictly true, the only planes at the show were those that had been entered into the throwing competition. Mr. P entered a MB 152, and cleared the arena, nearly killing a clutch of spectators but sadly didn't make the finals. We are raising a doping enquiry with the organisers! ■

Our thanks to Robert Crombeke and his crew for a superb show and Roll on 2009.



Demo Robert Doepp, entertains some of Europe's top armour modellers. From left to right, Marijn van Gils, Mario Eens, Per Olav Lund, Stefan Muller Herdemertens and in front Staf Snyers. Who's teaching who?



The 'kid's club', was very popular and gave the opportunity for the children to have a go at modelling, under supervision. It was great to watch them so enthralled and looking pleased at their finished model.



As can be seen here the competition was very well supported and the standard of the many entries was extremely high. WWII German vehicles were by far the most popular subjects.



Two of the superbly painted busts in the competition, the bust of Otto Skorzeny on the right displayed a very good likeness to the man himself, complete with his prominent scar!

Staf Snyers brought along his superb abandoned StuG III.



Axel Repping's Porsche King Tiger, looked superb crashing through a Normandy stone wall, it really conveyed the movement and drama in this imaginative diorama.





Many of the models on display have been seen in, and won numerous awards at the prestigious Euro Militaire show, including this superb destroyed StuG IV.

The Model clubs in attendance only have a small display area, with the rest of their space being taken up with the members actually modelling. There were clubs from Holland, Belgium and Germany.



Another imaginative diorama on display was this one of an abandoned Panzer IV



A nicely painted and weathered Russian T-28. White washed wintered schemes can be difficult to get right but the owner of this model has got it just right.

This formidable looking Egyptian T34/122 SPG looked superb as can be seen here.



This superbly finished Afrika Korps Sd.Kfz 223 by Nico Blomme (B), complete with interior detailing, caught the eye of many of the visitors.



Mark van Broekhoven, collects his well deserved award from Alex and Robert.

Best of Show, Marijn van Gils reluctant to sit down in the Silver Chair. Left to right, Roy Schurgers, Axel Repping, Marijn and Robert Crombeeke.



Jan Peters received the distinctive Dutch Modeller Award for his positive contributions to the Dutch modelling society. Flanked by Robert Crombeeke, Axel Repping and Roy Schurgers. Jan is the guy with the tattoos.



Trumpeter's large and impressive MIG halftrack was on display at one of the club stands. As can be seen from this photo of the engine bay, there is plenty of scope for the super detailer.



ADH's illustrious Advertising Sales guru, trying his best during the model plane throwing competition. He didn't do very well, all those years of playing rugby demonstrated he's only any good at throwing things backward!



"RAM HIM!!!"

Matt Edwards uses a famous WWII photo to recreate the scene in 1:35 scale.

So there you are commanding a M4A4 Sherman Tank (that your crew have named 'BallyRagget') around the Normandy countryside. You are not far from Cagny and things are going pretty well. The sun is up, it is a pleasant day and you have been shooting up enemy soft skinned vehicles. This war stuff is OK and quite enjoyable. Then suddenly it all goes horribly wrong. Advancing into the open you see to your left the biggest, fiercest tank in the world, the King Tiger.

Worse still its crew have seen you and their gun is starting to turn in your direction. There is no way on Earth you will survive a hit from its 88mm gun. Your gunner fires first and scores a direct hit - 'clang'; the shot ricochets off into the summer sky. His gun is still turning and disaster, your gunner tells you that yours has jammed. What do you do? Reverse? Jump out and run? Not if you are Lieutenant (later Sir) John Gorman of the 2nd Battalion Irish Guards. You tell your driver to floor it and ram him.



This is what happened on 18th July 1944 during one of several tank engagements that day.

What happened after this ramming incident is a matter of argument and conjecture which goes along the lines of - on ramming the King Tiger Tank both crews jumped out of their vehicles and in the confusion got mixed up, before making their way back to their own lines.

The King Tiger was then destroyed but by whom? Was it by Gorman - Who had commandeered a Sherman Firefly with a gun powerful enough to knock out the Tiger? Or was it hit, as some would say, by a German anti-tank gun?

Whatever the answer or what side of the argument you are inclined to believe, Gorman and his crew certainly rammed the King Tiger of Schwere Heeres Panzer Abteilung 503 (turret number 122).

REASON FOR A DIORAMA

After reading several accounts of this incident and then trawling websites, asking questions and finding about six post incident photographs, I decided to have a go at my own interpretation of the event.

Christmas was coming up, so on my wish list (and with the encouraging words of "not more models love" ringing the New Year in!) I had several items that I would need for this project.

I decided to use the latest Dragon Firefly kit as the basis for the M4A4 and would use a 75mm gun turret from Tamiya's early M4 Sherman. The items from my

wish list would be added to these to depict a truly British variant of this tank. The King Tiger was an easy choice as Dragon have recently produced a Porsche turreted version of this vehicle with added zimmerit.

THE KING HAS ENTERED THE BUILDING

As stated this is the Porsche Turreted version of the Tiger II and comes with the moulded on zimmerit. Now some modellers do not like this moulded on texture, but for me it is a Godsend and after a quick check to make sure everything was in the box, I was ready to start.

CONSTRUCTION

The instructions are the photographic type and this is the first time I have used these and was a little apprehensive. My advice is to study them carefully and any references you may have. The instructions for some strange reason show a spare turret and hull are included, but they aren't. So do not think you have been short changed. There are however plenty of spares including a whole set of separate tools, which are very good and extremely useful.

BOTTOMS UP

I tried my best to follow the sequence of the instructions but like most of us I have my own way of doing things. I did however build the running gear first; the wheel arms were adjusted, as I wanted the tracks to have the appearance of being on uneven ground and in motion. Once the wheel arms were



At first glance the Author's Sherman looks like it has been made out of the box because it all looks grey, in fact it just hides how much extra detailing has been added. Numerous parts from the Accurate Armour, Eduard and the Tamiya M4 have been used to improve the base kit.



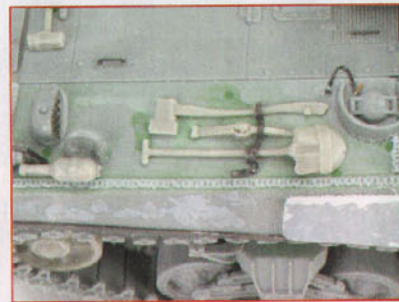
The tracks supplied in the Dragon Sherman Firefly Vc are the most common pattern seen on British M4s, but according to the author's research the Shermans used by the Irish Guards were often fitted with the Chrysler designed T54E2 tracks.



The Accurate Armour update for the Dragon M4A4/Firefly kits includes a new resin cast hull rear-plate. Note also the Eduard etched brass smoke generators mounted on the engine access door.



The Tamiya M4 turret has received a coat of Mr Surfacer 500 to add the distinctive cast texture. The Mr Surfacer is simply stippled on with a stiff bristled brush.



The pioneer tools and fire extinguisher all come from one of Accurate Armour's British Sherman updates sets. Note also the re-worked weld seams, these were done with a Historex Agents pyrogravure tool.

set, the wheels were added and the detail on these was first class. Some modellers take these off and paint them separately but I tend to leave them in situ.

The drive sprockets and rear idlers came next. And once aligned with the running gear, the tracks were added. These are separate links and although time consuming to assemble, were worth the effort. I tried to leave some slack towards the sprocket end as in

some accounts of the incident the King Tiger was reversing so I tried to replicate this movement with the track.

Next was the rear plate. I had a little difficulty here with the fit of the exhaust protectors so had to shave off some of the surrounding zimmerit. A little filler was added here and there just to blend in

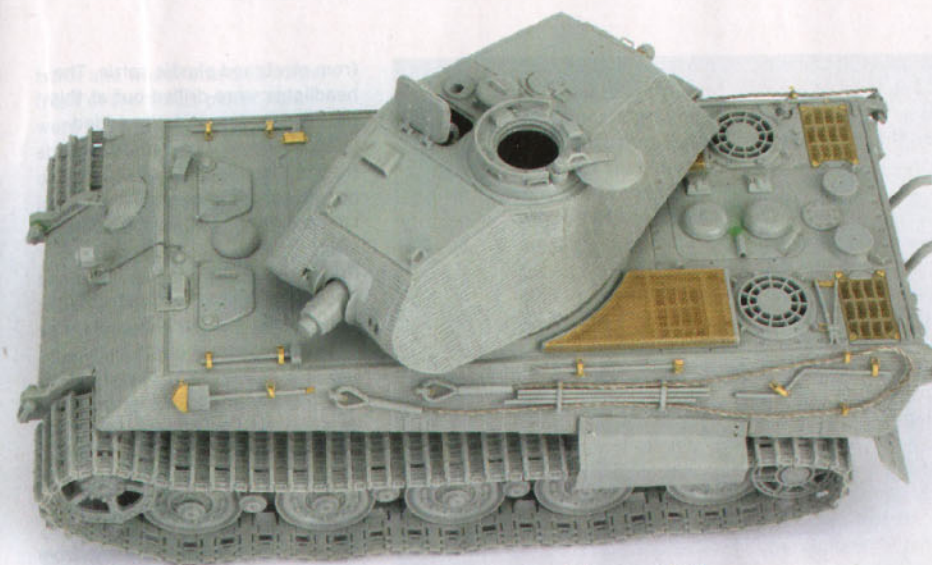
the bodywork and fittings. On the exhaust I added four missing bolts that should be around the exhaust pipe joint. None of the etched brass was fitted at this stage, as it is delicate and would be damaged during the rest of the assembly.

UPPER HULL

Next was the upper hull, this went on to the lower hull without any problems. The side skirts were now added; I only put on those

that I could see in the photographs I was using as reference. Some could have been removed after the incident, but I went with the information I had. The side skirts were easily cut and the thinned for a better scale thickness. The last major item added to the hull was a protective turret ring. Care should be taken to make sure this is aligned centrally.

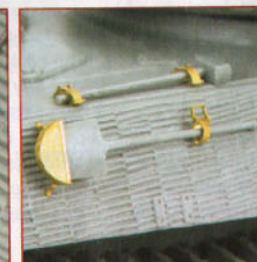
Now that I had a steady base to work from I started to chip and



The Dragon King Tiger ready for painting, the gun barrel and mantlet have been left off to make painting easier. Painting the wheels and tracks separately is a personal preference, in this case they have been permanently fixed in place prior to painting.



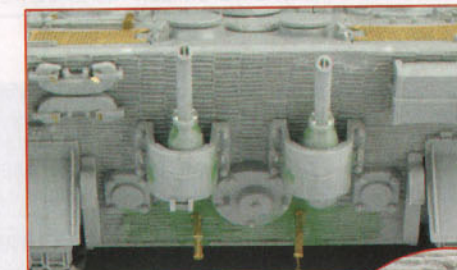
Dragon supplies a pre-shaped headlight conduit from thin steel rod, but unfortunately it was pre-shaped for the King Tiger kits without the zimmerit coating. The author replaced his with solder wire.



Detail shot of the pioneer tools, two sets are included, one with the tool clamps moulded on and the other without. The ones without are designed to be used in conjunction with the etched brass tool clamps.



Close up of the clamps holding the tow cable and starter crank handle in place. Dragon must be commended for including proper metal tow cables instead of string as many manufacturers include, but when forced into a tight radius the individual strands can separate as seen here.



The plastic card bolt heads around the exhaust collar, which have been made with the aid of a Historex punch and die set.



Extreme close up of the turret escape hatch and pistol port. Even the pistol port plug has received the moulded on zimmerit.



Looking at the front of the vehicle, you have to admit Dragon have done a really good job of replicating the zimmerit coating. When Tamiya released the Porsche King Tiger back in the 1990s, it was the lack of zimmerit that put many modellers off building the kit. Well there is no excuse now, with this one.

scrap some of the zimmerit off with a sharp scalpel but remembering to not take off too much as this was a pretty new vehicle. The weld seams are very well done and did not need enhancing, as is usually my practice.

HULL FITTINGS

There are a few raised areas moulded onto the zimmerit where the tool and towrope clasps locate, it was at this point that I chose to

replace some plastic items for parts on the etched brass fret. I did not use all of the brass, as the detail on some of the plastic items was more than adequate. Hopefully, from the assembly photographs you will be able to see what was and what wasn't added. One item I did replace however was the preformed wire conduit for the front driving light. This preformed part just didn't fit (I believe this comes from the

premium edition King Tiger, which has no zimmerit). So this was substituted with lead wire.

To finish off the hull, the front fender attachments were cut off and the edges smoothed out, leaving just the locating lugs/hinges.

THE SWINGY GUN THINGY (AS THE WIFE CALLS IT!)

Up next was the turret. This is a lovely item, the detail being first class. Before putting it all together I again added a little damage to the moulded-on zimmerit. The turret items were added, the rear hatch is wonderful and very well detailed, even the retaining chain for the armoured plug is included. I decided to leave this in the open position, just to show off the detail. ▶



There is a basic gun breach to assemble and this will suffice if you are putting figures into the hatches as not a lot can be seen internally. You have the choice of two commander's cupolas, so again check your references. There are also clear parts for the commander's station.

The barrel can now be fitted; this is an aluminium item and onto this is fixed a slide moulded muzzle brake. Take care when putting on the gun's collar, which is a small circular piece of plastic, which can be missed, and should be fixed before the muzzle brake.

All that was needed now was a check over of the assembly instructions to see if I had missed anything and it was now that I noticed the wooden jack block had no handle. I couldn't find one on the etch fret so added one from the spares box. The model was then complete and it was time for the painting.

CONCLUSION

What a great kit. A few little hiccups like the Zimmerit around the exhaust and the lights' electrical wire. But if that is all

there is to moan about, it should not put you off. The level of detail is wonderful and all at Dragon deserve a slap on the back. A joy to build and highly recommended.

GORMAN'S MOUNT

I did not have an M4A4 Sherman, as used in this incident, in my un-built collection or as is more commonly known - 'I'll make that one later' stash. What I did have though was the latest Dragon Sherman Firefly.

So by combining the hull from the Firefly with the turret from Tamiya's Early M4 Sherman I hoped, along with some extras from the spares box to be able to produce a reasonable rendition of Lieutenant Gorman's 75mm armed M4A4.

The extras I used on the Sherman included an Eduard etched brass set for the Firefly. I also used Accurate Armour update sets designed for the Tamiya M4 and Dragon Sherman Vc Firefly.

With all this in front of me along with books, photographs and printouts from various websites I began construction. I began with the Dragon kit. This is a nice

model and although it may not be as accurate as the new one from Tasca, with some TLC it can be transformed into a great model.

I basically followed the kit instructions, whilst also referring to those from Eduard and Accurate Armour when the need arose to replace certain items that were over scale or missing.

I hope that the photographs will give a good idea of what was replaced. But as a pointer, I needed to pay attention to the running gear as the bogies needed bolts adding to the underside of the track-skid and holes needed to be drilled, which were missing from the opposite side to the top return roller bracket.

The tracks were adapted to those seen on a lot of Irish Guard's Shermans at this time by removing the three rivets from the face of each of the T56E1 track links. Thankfully the plastic is quite soft so the three rivets can be simply sliced off with a scalpel blade.

UPPER HULL

The wet cover mount for the bow machine gun also received some detail by adding small press-studs

from stretched plastic sprue. The headlights were drilled-out at this time for the lenses to be added later. I used picture-hanging wire for the tow cable and all other details and additions were well covered by the update sets.

WELDS

Once happy with the construction of the hull, I glued thin lengths of stretched sprue over the kits moulded-on weld seams to give a more authentic look. A pyrogravure (low voltage soldering iron) was used to replicate a more convincing weld seam.

TAMIYA TURRET

As I have said, the turret came from the Tamiya kit and according to what I have read it is a pretty good replication of the real thing, with a few items being added from the accessories obtained. A coat of 'Mr Surfacer 500' was added to depict the cast rough texture on the turret and any weld seams were given the same treatment as the hull.

STOWAGE

In the 'after incident' photographs it is possible to make out the spare

track and wheel attached to the front of the glacis plate. These were easy enough to add from the spares box. A retaining bolt was glued onto the wheel before fixing in place. Next was to add stowage to the rear deck.

Studying photographs from the same unit and other Shermans in use at this time I decided that spare ammo boxes and tarpaulins as well as a cam net would be in order. Again turning to the spares box I gathered what I needed. The tarpaulins were made from two-part epoxy putty, which was first rolled out into thin sheets, then draped over the equipment. Small pieces of paper were cut and glued to the cam net, which had been soaked in a mixture of PVA glue and water.

As a point of note, there is conjecture as to the serial number for 'BallyRaggit' so to avoid upsetting anyone I draped the cam net and tarpaulin over this area.

All of the stowage was tied down with small pieces of thread. A small bucket was added that I thought once painted would add a little colour to the rear of the vehicle.

The turret also received some stowage coming from Accurate Armour. ■



Mr Surfacer 500 was used to add some texture to the Tamiya turret on the Sherman. Mr. Surfacer and the Mr. Product range are available in the UK from MDC. Tel. (0) 1246 82 77 55 Email: models@modeldesignconstruction.com

In part two, Matt will describe how he painted, both the King Tiger and the Sherman and how the groundwork was made to complete this dramatic moment in time.

Modelspec

"Ram Him!" Diorama

Items used

1:35 Dragon Sd.Kfz.182 King Tiger Porsche Turret with Zimmerit (6302)
1:35 Dragon Firefly VC (6182)
1:35 Tamiya M4 Sherman early production (35190)
1:35 Dragon Achtung Jabo Panzer Crew France 1944 (6191)
1:35 Ultra Cast figures, available from Accurate Armour.
1:35 Sherman update set (A037) from Accurate Armour.
1:35 Sherman V-VC update set (A036)
1:35 Eduard M4 Sherman detail set (35351) available from LSA Models and Hannants
1:35 Eduard Firefly details set (35679) available from Hannants.
Various Sizes MV Lenses available from Historex

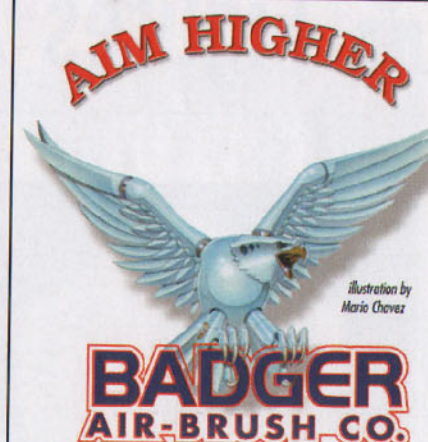
References

King Tiger Heavy Tank 1942-1945, Osprey.
Modellers Guide to the Tiger Tank, Ampersand Publishing Co.
Tigers in Combat, Wolfgang Schneider - Stacpole Books.
The Sherman Tank in British Service 1942-1945, Osprey.
M4 Sherman, Osprey Modelling Manual 14, British Tanks of WWII France and Belgium 1944, Concorde Publications.
M4 Sherman walk-a-round, Squadron Signal Publications.
Sherman Firefly, Mark Hayward.
British Tanks in Normandy, Ludovic Fortin - Histoire and Collectors.
Websites
www.tracklink.com, www.militarymodelling.com, www.missinglinks.com, www.armouramma.com, www.axishistoryforum.com

✓ First rate kit, no major issues.

✗ Bolts needed around exhaust and headlight wire needed replacing.

Rating ●●●●●●●●



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Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...



SPEARHEAD MINIATURES

200MM RESIN BRITISH WWII PARATROOPER FIGURE ITEM NO. SM90002

Flawlessly cast in a good quality cream resin, this 200mm figure looks superb even in its unassembled and unpainted form. I was however fortunate enough to see a fully finished display model on the Resicast stand at the recent Scale Model World at Telford and it looked awesome. If you are in anyway unsure how big a 200mm figure looks, check out the 1:35 Para next to the torso. Detail throughout is excellent, from the authentically youthful look of this young soldier to the bulk of the Bren Gun and his hobnail boots.

Unreservedly recommended.

Available from ian_hextall@yahoo.co.uk and Parabellum in Birmingham

The price is £50.00 plus p&p.

10/10 The Editor



GASOLINE

GAS50380 - KETTENRAD CREW

GAS50379 - M-8/M-20 CREW

Just received from French company Gasoline are these two sets of crew figures. Both sets feature the company's new casting style in fine, smooth grey resin showing very fine casting and detail to both sets.

The Kettenrad crew are a two figure set having a driver and passenger. Both are in "Heer" uniform with camo helmet covers. The driver is a straight swap for the Tamiya driver and fits perfectly.

The passenger shows some animation in that he is half turning and could be added to other vehicles - i.e. the Kubelwagon or styer vehicles.

The other set comprises a three-figure set to flesh out the M8/20 armoured cars from Tamiya. Two full figures and a three quarter figure for the driver. They are shown wearing American uniforms with French headgear but USA style helmets are included. The French having made much use of both cars in WWII.

These are great sets to accompany the vehicles and are highly recommended.

Available from Parabellum in the UK

Or direct from www.gaso-line.eu

9.5/10 Doug Frame



ACCURATE ARMOUR

1:35 RESIN FIGURES

F04 UK INFANTRYMAN SPOTTING & SA80

F05 UK INFANTRYMAN WITH BODY ARMOUR & SA80/ BAYONET

F06 UK AFV CREWMAN WITH BODY ARMOUR

F07 UK INFANTRYMAN WITH BODY ARMOUR & SA80

F08 UK INFANTRYMAN AT REST #1: CARRYING BEER

F21 UK INFANTRYMAN AT REST #2: HANDS IN POCKETS

F22 UK INFANTRYMAN AT REST #3: DRINKING WATER

F23 UK INFANTRYMAN AT REST #4: DRINKING BEER

Accurate Armour have come to the rescue of fans of the modern British military, with these eight brand new figures featuring troops in various relaxed poses. Ranging from guys having a well deserved beer at the end of a day's operations, to others grabbing a quick drink of water during a brief respite in the fighting. Although they have all been sculpted with either Iraq or Afghanistan in mind, they could still be used to depict troops for an exercise in the UK or Germany and Poland. An added bonus is that the figures drinking beer include very neat waterslide decals for the beer cans and the figure drinking from a bottle of water includes a very nice clear resin water bottle and waterslide decal for the label. All are totally recommended and just perfect for adding life and scale to some of the great British armour being released in 1:35 at present.

Available from www.accurate-armour.com

10/10 The Editor





Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...



MINIART

1:35 SOVIET SOLDIERS RIDERS ITEM NO. 35055

When this set first arrived I had high hopes for it, the box art as we have come to expect from MiniArt is very inspirational and makes you want to buy them and build them, but on opening the box I couldn't hide my disappointment. The detail looked soft and most of the parts suffered from flash, this aside I still assembled one of the figures for the photos. When I do this I basically just pick a figure that will stand on its own for the photos. In this case I chose the tank crewman and from the start I wasn't impressed, the leg sections kept pulling apart once lined up under the torso. The arms don't actually mimic the pose on the box top and worst still, the right arm doesn't even match up with the flat area of the torso where it attaches! Overall a disappointing set that will require some serious work to get them looking decent. Available from all good model shops. Distributed in the UK by Creative Models
6/10 The Editor

WEE FRIENDS

1:35 RESIN IDF CREWMAN, WITH UZI ITEM NO. WF35027

When I got back into modelling in the early 1990s, one of the first models I built was the Tamiya Merkava 1, and one of the first figures I bought was the 8ft tall Verlinden IDF Tanker to stand beside it on the base. I was never really happy with him; he just looked too big and made the Merkava look small by comparison. Coincidentally 15 years later I am building another Tamiya Merkava 1 and was wondering what figure to include with it, without wanting to use the overscale Verlinden figure again! Thankfully Wee Friends have come to the rescue with this very nice IDF Tanker armed with his trusty UZI sub-machine gun and wearing the standard RBH 400 Tank and APC crewman's helmet. This figure offers excellent detail and good quality casting, however care must be taken when removing the head from the casting plug as part of the plug attaches directly under the chin, other than that, this is a great figure, which fitted together perfectly and is one I can thoroughly recommend. Available from www.friendshipmodels.co.uk
9.5/10 The Editor

Wee Friends



DON'T MISS A THING....

Don't worry issues #1-11 are still available to buy and full details are on the website @ www.modelmilitaryinternational.com



Issue 12

- Building Dragon's Marder II
- A tale of two of Tamiya SU-65s
- Dragon's MIA AIM Abrams main battle tank
- Applying zimmerit to AFV Club's Late Tiger I
- Tamiya Quad and 25 Pounder
- 1:48 Accurate Armour Austin K2 Ambulance
- » and more...



Issue 13

- HobbyBoss Danish Leopard 2 A5
- Jaguar's 200mm US Ranger
- Op. Telfic Warrior diorama Part 1
- Trumpeter's captured KV-1
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- M198 towed howitzer reference
- Sovereign 2000 Humber Mk 1 armoured car
- Dragon Panzer IV D
- » and more...



Issue 14

- Dragon Sd.Kfz. 234 Puma
- Cromwell Models L72 IDF Achzarit APC
- Cyber-Hobby 1:35 Kübelwagen ambulance
- Tamiya 1:48 Sherman M4
- AH-64 Apache reference
- Resicast ex DD Sherman
- Dragon M51 Isherman Smart Kit
- » and more...



Issue 15

- Dragon Premium Edition Soviet SU-100
- Tamiya 1:48 Crusader
- British anti-tank gun reference
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- SKP Models Humber Scout Car
- Dragon First Panther G Smart Kit
- Tamiya 1:48 Wirbelwind
- Tamiya 1:48 KV-1
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- Resicast Ex Duplex Drive M4A1 Sherman
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- RPM FT-17
- Canadian Leopard C2 reference
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Issue 17

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- Cromwell's Combat 72 Merkava 4
- Dragon's latest Panzer IV
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- MAFVA Nationals
- Holden's ambulance Jeep conversion
- Dragon's M4 Mortar Carrier
- » and more...



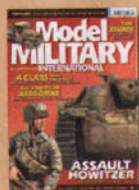
Issue 18

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- Academy's 1:48 CH-46 Sea Knight
- Dragon's steel wheeled Panther G
- Anderson's ultimate StuG IV
- Dragon's Sd.Kfz. 251/17
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- Tamiya's new Renault UE Tractor
- Dragon's T34/76 in a winter setting
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- Academy Magach 7A Conversion
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- M4A2 76mm resin conversion
- L15 Panther Ausf A
- Cyber Hobby T-34/76 STZ
- Lion Roar M2 mega-riched brass detail set
- Sherman reference photos
- » and more...



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- Italeri MH-60K Blackhawk
- Dragon 10.5cm armoured Slug III
- Step by step guide - Tamiya 1:48 GMC
- GMC reference photos
- Italeri 1:48 Chinook
- Iwata TR-1 airbrush
- S&T 120mm US Para
- » and more...



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- Tamiya Hetzer
- Tamiya M3 HMC
- Tamiya Leopard 2A6
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- Italeri's LVT-4
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- Bronco's Staghound armoured car
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- Italeri 1:48 RAF Chinook
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- Tamiya 1:35 JS-2
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- ICM Studebaker
- Dragon Grasshopper
- Dragon Porsche King Tiger
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- Trumpeter 1:35 E-25
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- Dragon 1:35 Jagdpanther (early version)
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- Fujimi 1:44 Dora Rail Gun
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- Dragon Firefly
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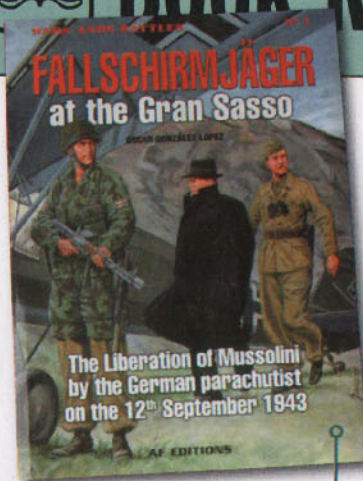
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Book Reviews

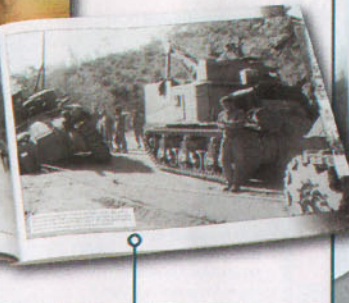
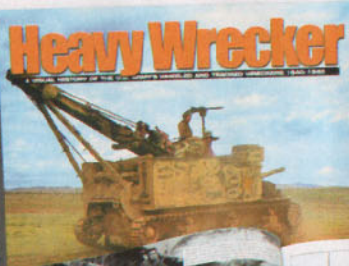


FALLSCHIRMJÄGER AT THE GRAN SASSO THE LIBERATION OF MUSSOLINI BY THE GERMAN PARACHUTIST ON THE 12TH SEPTEMBER 1943

OSCAR GONZALEZ LOPEZ • AF EDITIONS

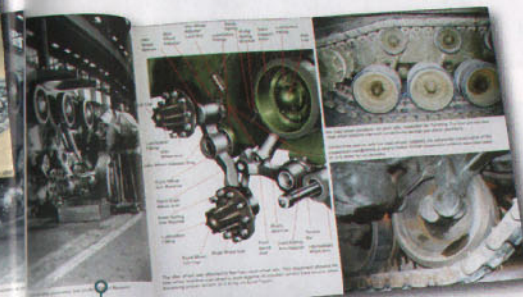
As the title says this book is about the audacious operation to free Mussolini from captivity by German Paratroopers and an SS contingent led by a certain Otto Skorzeny. He was imprisoned in a Hotel on the Gran Sasso Mountain in Italy in what he described himself as the "World's Highest Prison". This soft backed book from AF Editions in their Wars and Battles range consists of 64 pages, included within are 59 black and white photographs, six colour photographs and three colour drawings. There are Fourteen Chapters, covering everything from the historical background to the operational planning and on to the actual operation and the aftermath. These are all accompanied with photographs taken during and after the event and I must say these are quite atmospheric, you have to marvel at the skill and courage of the glider pilots landing on the mountainside and of the Storch pilot who landed then took off again with Mussolini onboard. The book finishes off with four appendices, including the combat history of the participating unit and the official report of the Operation. Overall this is a very interesting book both for the modeller and for anyone interested in World War Two.

Available from www.casematepublishing.co.uk
Jeff Adams



HEAVY WRECKER A VISUAL HISTORY OF THE U.S. ARMY'S WHEELED AND TRACKED WRECKERS 1940-1945 M1 SERIES. DIAMOND T. C2. M31. M32 AMPERSAND PUBLISHING • DAVID DOYLE • ISBN 978-0-977373781-5-9

Those of you who are familiar with Ampersand's Allied and Axis series of books will recognise the layout of this new title in their range. Large clear black and white photographs, one to a page, of official company portraits, war time 'in use' shots and shots of preserved vehicles fill this volume. From the Lee and Sherman based M31 and M32 vehicles through to the large truck based M1, C2 and Diamond T Wrecker the clear captions will tell you where and how these vehicles were used. If you have a model of any of these vehicles and were looking to detail, fit out, or show them in use then this is the book for you. The war time photos are particularly useful to diorama building as they show vehicle recovery in various stages and situations. Of note to the adventurous builders amongst us are the photos of a C2 using its crane to change the engines on a B17 bomber. Time to dig out the plastic card chaps. Highly recommended. Available from www.historexagents.co.uk
Graeme Carruthers



AFV COLLECTION NO. 1 - PANZER I, THE BEGINNING OF A DYNASTY

LUCAS MOLINA FRANCO • AF EDITIONS • ISBN 84 - 87314 - 43 - 0

This is the first volume in a new series from AF Editions and where better to start than with the ubiquitous Panzer I.

Printed in a A5 softback format, this volume covers the Panzer I in all its guises, from its early pre-war beginnings. Chapter one covers the development of the 'agricultural tractor' and the Ausf. A and Ausf. B gun tanks, over the first 36 pages. The text is printed in double columns and is interspersed with period black and white photographs, varying in size from just a couple of inches square, right up to full page, but the quality is very good and the pictures are extremely clear throughout, something that can't be said of all books of this type.

Also included are some superb colour profiles, many showing just one side, others being four-views, displaying the various colour and camouflage schemes, as well as markings. The profiles are all 'weathered', some showing foliage, snow or stowage, which will all help the modeller to transfer this realism to his models.

Chapter two is shorter, covering the Ausf. C and Ausf. F versions, while chapter 3 concentrates on the command variants, again with some lovely, inspiring colour plates.

Finally chapters five and six are devoted to the special versions of the Panzer I. Beginning with the Ausf. A versions of the "Breda" gunned Pz.I, and continuing on through the Flammenwerfer Pz.I, Flakpanzer I and the Munitionsschleppers and finally the Brückenleger version.

The Ausf. B versions covered are the Ladungsleger, 15cm sIG33 (Sf) 'Bison', the 4,7cm Panzerjäger I, Munitionsschlepper, Sanitätswagen and lastly, the Filmpanzer I.

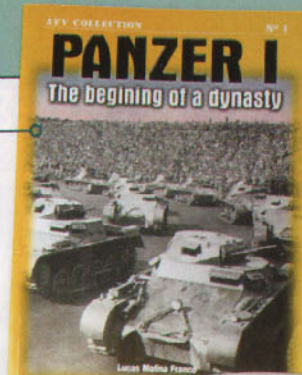
All in all this is an excellent introduction to the Panzer I, giving a basic and affordable reference on this important tank, with many well-chosen images to inspire the modeller.

Highly Recommended.

My thanks to Simone from Casemate for the review sample.

Available from www.casematepublishing.co.uk

Darren Thompson



DEUTSCHE SOLDATEN

UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT & PERSONAL ITEMS OF THE GERMAN SOLDIER 1939-45
AGUSTIN SAIZ • CASEMATE PUBLISHING • ISBN 978-1-932033-96-0 • 312 PAGE H/B

Back in issue 29 I recommended the Histoire & Collections book on the Uniforms and Equipment of the G.I. as my recommended read, that book was a true one-stop reference source for the modeller and collector alike. Well thanks to Casemate Publishing we now have one dedicated to the WWII German soldier, which follows a very similar vein, although not all infantry weapons are covered as with the G.I. book, but this is more than made up by the depth the book goes into, with the all of the items that are covered, and that includes everything from medals to mouth organs to rifles and gas masks. I for one, have learnt an awful lot about just how many subtle variations there are between familiar pieces of equipment, such as water bottles and helmets.

This excellent book offers a wealth of info for anyone interested in WWII Wehrmacht uniforms and equipment. One point to note, this book does not however cover uniforms specific to the Waffen SS, only those of the regular army. Highly recommended.

Available from www.casematepublishing.co.uk
The Editor





PANTHER 'F'ANTASY

Darren Thompson takes a look at the futuristic looking Panther, that just missed the end of the war, but is still a very popular subject with German armour modellers.

Following fairly swiftly behind the Cyber-Hobby release of the Panther F, I was very interested to see what the differences were between the two kits and what parts, if any had been left out.

Based on Dragon's latest incarnation of the Panther G, the lower hull and drivetrain are excellent. Consisting of a tub-style hull, individual torsion bars and a full set of both rubber-tyred and steel road wheels, giving you plenty of options. Whilst the Cyber-Hobby kit only gave you the rubber-tyred wheels.

A set of individual link 'magic tracks' completes the running gear. Two upper hulls are included, one representing the standard 'G', the other portraying the so-called production 'F' hull, with the thicker hull roof, sliding crew

hatches and relevant interlocking joints. Both standard and raised crew compartment heaters are provided, complete with 'pie-slice' covers. At the rear, is a choice of welded or cast armoured exhaust guards and a set of 'Flammenvernichter' flame-suppressing mufflers, with optional hoods.

The 'Schmalturm' turret is very nicely done, giving the option of either a one-piece plastic barrel, or turned aluminium one and, whilst it isn't applicable to this model, there is a lovely chinned mantlet included for the spares box.

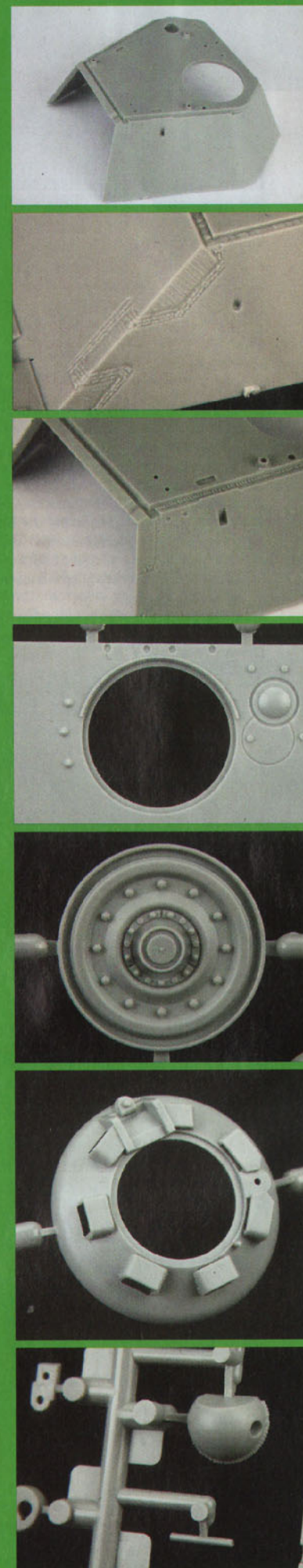
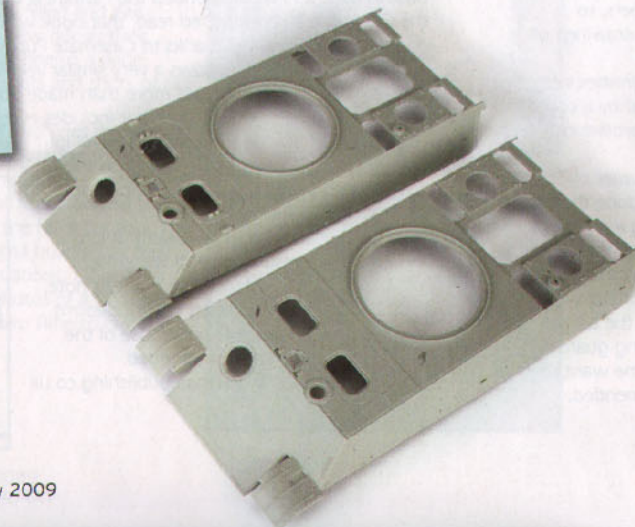
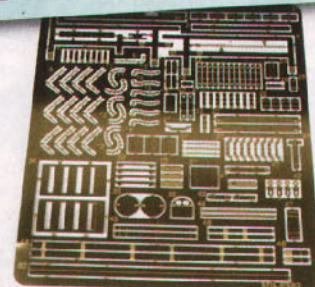
As usual with the Smart Kits, there is a small-etched brass fret specific to the Panther F, providing tool clamps, track hanger pins, engine deck louvers and various other small fittings. Also in brass are a cleaning rod

and antenna stowage tube and a set of air intake screens, whilst soft pliable wire is given for the tow cables.

A nicely printed Cartograf decal sheet, provides some generic black and white numbers and Balkenkreuz with the instructions giving one prototype scheme and three production schemes in various late war camouflage, all denoted as unidentified units, Berlin 1945. Best of luck with your references on those!

To sum up then, an excellent kit of a popular subject. If you like your German armour with a whiff of '1946' about it, the only people I can see being disappointed are those who rushed to buy the Cyber-Hobby kit, only to find this one actually contains all the same parts, and more! Highly Recommended. ■

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DIRECT VISION...

Martin Dogger gets his hands on the long awaited DV Sherman II from the guys at Tasca.

There are various different ways to market your products. You can announce releases at hobby shows, publish kit lists at the start of every year or just shout out what you're planning to do. Tasca does not seem to fit any of these profiles. They quietly announce a release and bring it out on the market within a relatively short period. So far, they have produced a fair number of M4 kits, two British Sherman Vc kits and two M4A1 kits. Their latest is something of a mix as it depicts a British M4A1, or Sherman II, as it appeared at the battle of El Alamein in 1942.

So, with the kit on the workbench, let's see what we've got. The boxart is simple, showing a Sherman II in the vast, open desert under a nice blue sky. The sides of the box show two of the painting options, more on this later.

Inside the box are several sprues, some of which are duplicated, most of these have been seen before in the previous M4A1 kits and the separate Sherman suspension sets. This means we get the riveted, lower hull, which is correct for El Alamein tanks.

Tasca provide us with a new

hull top, new M3 style bogies, new fenders and British fittings. A lot of parts on the other sprues are not for use, so this means more parts for the spares box. Think transmission cover, drive sprockets, etc.

Moulding is very good, with fine texture on the turret and hull. Details such as light guards, handles and antenna guard are done in plastic, but mould commendably thin. There is some flash present, but nothing that can't be remedied. Moreover, a very thin bit of flash will take good care of filling small holes around lifting rings, etc. They provide a small fret of PE, with the air intake grille, grouser cover grilles and latches for the air filters. You also get three British 'flimsy' cans with separate handles to go in the rack on the right front fender. The package is rounded off with four lengths of vinyl T51 track, a sprue of Tasca's M2 .50cal MG and a sprue from their U.S. Jerry can set.

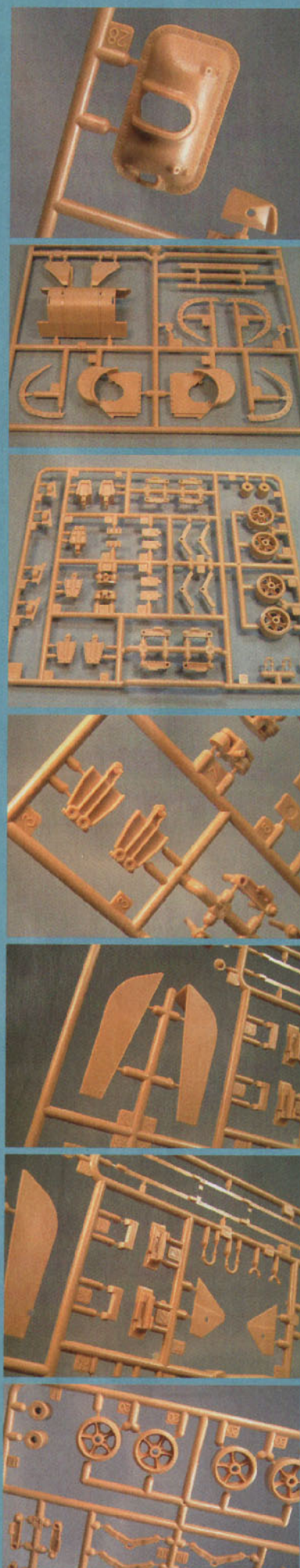
Most of the attention will of course go to the DV slots in the hull and the M3 bogies. The DV slots have been moulded as separate parts, with a separate cover. This will fit in the opening cast in the upper hull. The contours appear a bit sharp, but

some sanding will take care of this. A quick measurement with callipers shows the M3 bogies are 10.5mm high, which is the correct height. Note there are two front covers provided, one with horizontal reinforcement bars. You can only build one set of bogies, as there is just one rear bogie half. Photos of all El Alamein Sherman IIs I have seen show the non-reinforced bogie halves.

Tasca provide markings for three tanks, all of which are correct. Option one is T145063 from C Squadron, 9th QRL, 2nd AB. Option two is T144905 C Squadron, 3rd Hussars, 9th AB. Option three is T149466 'Cricklade', C Squadron, RWY, 9th AB.

The painting instructions are very accurate, presumably based on the works of Mike Starmer?

Is there nothing in this kit I can nitpick on? Well, two of the marking options provided are available as aftermarket sets and PE for the light guards would have been nice. But other than these academic points, this is one great kit of a very important version of the M4 Sherman. Let's see how DML will handle their version. ■



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and answer this simple question:

In which year did production of the Leopard I MBT start?

This is open to all our readers worldwide. You've got until 1st March 2009 to enter.

Competition rules

Employees/volunteers working for CMK, MPM Production and associated companies and their families are not permitted to enter. The first (correct) entry drawn will win. Entries are limited to one person per household/person. The winner's name will be published in a future edition of Model Military International. All entries received must reach ADH Publishing by 1st March 2009 when the draw takes place. Open to readers worldwide.

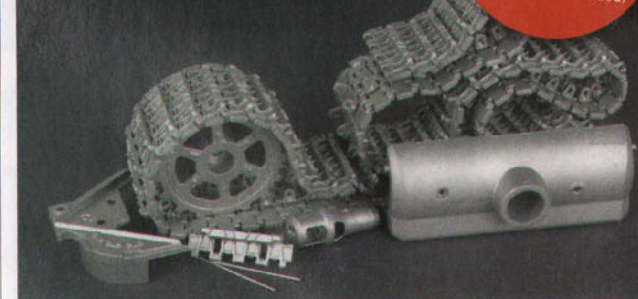
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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

CONGRATULATIONS

First and foremost I would like to congratulate all of the winners of the Tamiya Competition sponsored by The Hobby Company and I hope the prizes give many hours of happy modelling to the lucky winners. I would also like to thank everyone who took the time to enter and especially those who sent in some brilliant post cards that had us all smiling and laughing in the office, intentionally or not!

MURPHY'S LAW

A few issue ago Kev Smith built Dragon's new Henschel King Tiger with zimmerit and while I was in the studio taking the photos, I thought it would be good to photograph it outside against a real background, because if you get it right it can look very realistic. Well I thought I would try this again with Kev's latest Jagdpanther, the problem was the model is depicted during the latter stages of the battle for Normandy '44' i.e., late summer and not the end of November 2008 in very wet Devon! The only day I had available, was blowing a gale and suffered from intermittent rain showers, great for the moody background, but not for getting the model wet! Not only did I have this to contend with but also trying to find a ploughed field to match the diorama base this time of year was virtually impossible. Eventually I did find one, in a sheltered spot without worrying about people driving past wondering what the hell I was up to with a camera, tripod and 'toy tank' on the roof of the car! In the end I didn't get the shot I was after, thanks to the rain and very nearly getting my car stuck in the field it now looks like it's competed in the World Rally Car Championships. Yet again my name's sake strikes again and gets one over on me!



See you again on February 5th

Spud
John 'Spud' Murphy

TAMIYA COMPETITION

Thank you to all who took part in this amazing competition. First of all I must say we did get quite a few different answers. We think there may have been some confusion in the exact wording of the question, but the actual answer we were looking for was 1968, which was the year Tamiya released the first of their 1:35 Military Miniatures range, this set was the German Army Tank Crew 35001.

WINNERS:

GROUP 1 - Stellan Eriksson - Nynashamn, Sweden
GROUP 2 - Victor Lim - Lantau, Hong Kong
GROUP 3 - Neil Spencer - Southwick, UK
GROUP 4 - Mr Phillip. G. Fisher - Leominster, UK
GROUP 5 - Alex Head - Tonbridge, Kent, UK
GROUP 6 - Steve Merret - Widnes, Cheshire, UK
GROUP 7 - Graham Startridge - St Austell, Cornwall, UK
GROUP 8 - David Masip Polo - Barcelona, Spain
GROUP 9 - Marcin Puchala - Co. Dublin, Ireland
GROUP 10 - Laila Mathias - Pretoria, South Africa

MPM COMPETITION WINNER

Congratulations to David Butcher who is the winner of the MPM competition to win either a Spitfire Mk.VC or CA-9 Wirraway, the correct answer to the question- "what was the names of the three RAF Gloster Gladiators used in the defence of Malta?" - Faith, Hope and Charity.. David Butcher - Cadiz, Spain

RESIN CASTING

I have recently started attempting to cast my own resin parts, primarily to reduce my expenditure, but also to allow me to make numerous copies of parts that I have either scratchbuilt or added to. My only information is some old magazine articles, some of which are good and some not so good. I wonder if there would be any consideration to possibly publishing an article on how to cast your own resin items, with some sage advice and pitfalls to avoid etc. Clearly there are copyright issues, however if my understanding is correct, as long as the items are not sold on for gain then there is no copyright infringement. Although the initial set up costs are quite high, in the longer term there are clear benefits, especially in these current financial times. I for one have read numerous books and magazines where the author of a

model has stated how they have cast additional parts, and would love to be able to do the same. I know I would be interested and I'm sure others would be in such an article.

Toby Knight

Ed says: Home casting is something that many of us use and is another modelling string to add to the bow and one we will be running a 'Tech Guide' article on in the near future. In the mean time companies such as Sylmasta (www.sylmasta.com) stock a wide range of casting and mould making products including Room Temperature Vulcanizing (RTV) rubber to make the moulds and polyurethane resins to cast the parts. One thing to bear in mind is that both the RTV and resin can be expensive and have a fairly short shelf life, so make sure you only mix up what you need and you will be able to find enough things to cast before the shelf life expires.

RECOMMENDED READING

IMPERIAL ARMOUR MODEL MASTERCLASS VOLUME ONE WARHAMMER 4000 MODELLING GUIDE

FORGEWORLD - ISBN 978-1-84154-902-6
WWW.FORGEWORLD.CO.UK

Before you instantly dismiss this book thinking it's just for fantasy wargamers, there is one thing you need to know and this book has been written by no other than Phil Stutinskas, yes that's the same Phil who won Euro Militaire a couple of years ago with his amazing panzer IV!

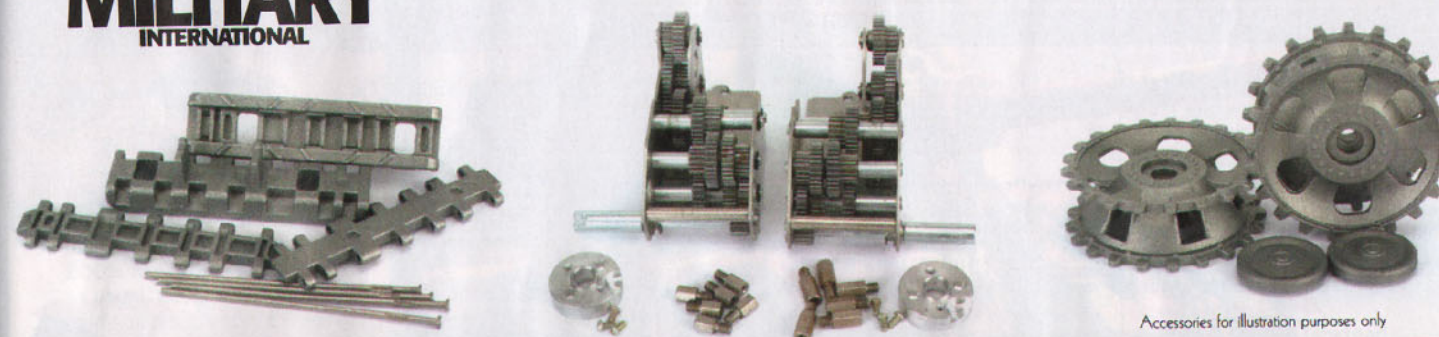
All of the information in this book is relevant to us armour modellers, from basic modelling and detailing techniques to ultra realistic painting and weathering guides, all of which is clearly explained with informative text and clear, bright photos. Although the models maybe pure fantasy, the techniques and tips certainly are not. I'm going to go out on a limb here and say "this is one of the very best, if not the best book on modelling and painting armour, and truly deserves to carry the title 'Model Masterclass'". Definitely buy this book, you will not be disappointed.



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IMPACT



Accessories for illustration purposes only

Model Military International and Welsh Dragon models have teamed up to give readers the chance to win some exciting and valuable after market goodies for their Tamiya 1/16th RC Tanks! From tracks to transmission units, wheels to photo-etch there's a wide range for most models.

One lucky winner will receive accessories to the value of £150 with a runner-up prize value of £100 and third place with £50. Additionally a further 10 winners will receive a set of two barrel elevator arms (for Tamiya full option RC tanks)

Winners can choose their own items to the value of their prize.

Just answer these three simple questions:

- 1, Which anniversary is IMPACT currently celebrating?
- 2, Who is IMPACT'S distributor in the UK?
- 3, IMPACT'S track pins will not fall out because of their MLR construction. What does MLR stand for?

See our Newline pages to find the answers.

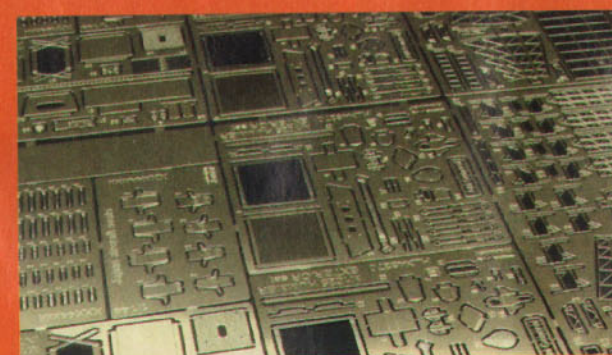


Send your answers on a postcard by 1st March 2009 to:

MMI - Welsh Dragon Models Competition, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX

Competition rules

Employees/volunteers working for Welsh Dragon Models and associated companies and their families are not permitted to enter. Winners will be drawn at random. Entries are limited to one person per household/person. The winner's names will be published in a future edition of Model Military International. All entries received must reach ADH Publishing by 1st March 2009 when the draw takes place. Open to readers worldwide.



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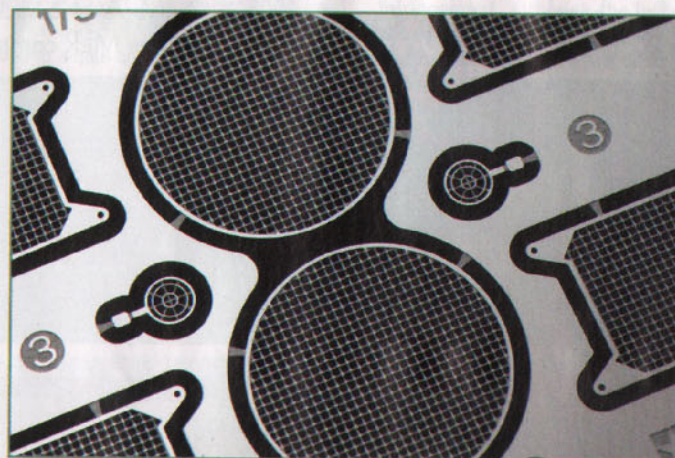


THE ULTIMATE HEAVY HUNTER!

Marcus Nicholls has a hands-on look at Tamiya's all new Jagdtiger kit in 1:35.

Tamiya have really got into the swing of the celebrations of the 40th year of Military Miniatures Series, releasing not one, but two totally new 1:35 armour kits this year to mark this amazing achievement. The first was the Panzer II, a small, early-war machine, but the second could not be more different. It represents the heaviest, most powerfully armed AFV of the Second World War, the Jagdtiger, or 'Hunting Tiger'. Armed with a massive 12.8cm main gun and sporting frontal armour up to 250mm thick, which was impenetrable by any Allied munition, it represents the ultimate expression of wartime Germany's ambition to defend itself, and had it been available in sufficient numbers with enough fuel and spares to keep them running, would have been a serious threat to the Allied armies pushing into Germany.

Tamiya did release a model of the Hunting Tiger back in the 1970s, but this



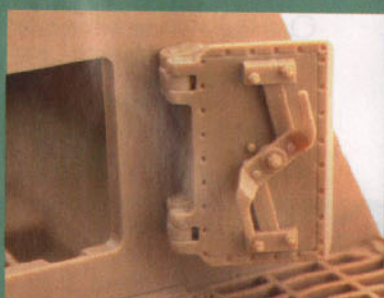
release is entirely new and does not borrow any parts from the older kit. It makes use of Tamiya's arsenal of high technology model development techniques to create a model that fits into the distinctive Tamiya ethos of high accuracy and fine detail with an unrivalled ease of assembly and precise fit of parts - the perfect combination, one could say.

The model depicts the most common variant, the early production type with Henschel-suspension, and comes with five markings options, all

from the 653rd Heavy Tank Hunting Battalion - and free from zimmerit, which will make the construction process considerably easier. All feature a full covering of three tone 'Ambush' camouflage, with bold vehicle numbers on the casemate sides, but little else in the way of markings.

A partial interior is included, featuring the gun, its mount and floor - just enough to see when peering through the hinged fighting compartment access doors which feature complete locking mechanisms. Two types of track are supplied, one-piece flexibles and link and length types, and both are very well detailed. If you are using the full set of track guards, the flexibles are perfect as the top run is hidden, but if you choose to leave off the guards as often happened on the real vehicles, the hard plastic link and length types feature the correct degree of sag moulded in. Photo-etched metal engine grilles and two partial crew figures are included. Highly recommended - full build articles coming to Tamiya Model Magazine and Model Military Magazine soon! ■

This JT is one of four that Marcus will be building for a forthcoming book on modelling the new Tamiya kit.



31 Diary Dates

To have your event included on this page, send your details to: **Diary Dates**, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK. Tel: 01525 222573 • Fax: 01525 222574 • Email: editor@modelmilitary.com

January 11th

Bolton IPMS Model Bonanza 2009 at St Josephs RC High School, Chorley New Road, Horwich BL6 6HW. Bolton IPMS will be holding their annual model Bonanza a week early in 2009. Free parking available as usual, along with hot and cold snacks, plenty of traders and some excellent Branch and SIG Displays. The themed table for 2009 is 'Stripes', however you may want to interpret that, please feel free to bring along any models you feel will fit in with the theme.

February 1st

Milton Keynes Scale Model Club will once again be hosting 'ModelKraft 2009' at the Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes. For further information please go to www.mksmc.co.uk

February 14th

The Fleet Air Arm Museum in Yeovil Somerset. Doors open at 10.00 and normal Museum admission prices apply. Airfix will run a 'Make and Paint' workshop and sponsor the competitions. Over 120 traders and clubs will be attending. Weather permitting, there will also be a flying display by the award winning BMFA (British Model Flying Association). Contact: Jon Jefferies - Head of Marketing and Development 01935 842638

February 15th

HUDDERSFIELD 2000 The Greatest Model show in the North. Huddersfield Sports Centre, Southgate, Huddersfield HD1 1TW. Hosted by the

International Plastic Modellers' Society.

Doors open 10.00 - 17.00 Admission £3.00 or £1.00 concessions. Contact: Alan Paul 07811 358355 or Andy Scholefield 07775 641315.

February 28th - March 1st

Trucks 'n' Tracks will be held at the Leas Cliff hall, Folkestone, Kent. For further information please go to www.trucksntracks.com or contact Trevor Claringbold at trucksntracks@hotmail.com

March 7th

North Somerset Modellers' Society are proud to announce their 14th annual show will take place at the Locking Castle Campus, Weston-Super-Mare BS24 7DX. Open 10am to 5pm. For further info please go to www.finetooth-systems.com/IPMSNorthSomerset/

March 14th/15th

After last year's very successful show, Southern Expo is back on March 14th and 15th 2009. The show will be open from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 10am to 4 pm on Sunday. As before the show will be held at Hornchurch Sports Centre, Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 1ET. Nearest Underground Station: Hornchurch (District Line) Nearest Mainline Stations: Romford or Upminster Bus Nos: 193, 365 or 248, 370. By Car: 4 miles from M25 Junction 28 or 29. Free Parking. For more information email us at: southernexpo@tiscali.co.uk Or visit the website: <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/southernexpo>

<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/southernexpo>

March 28th/29th

The Cyprus IPMS will be holding their 9th annual exhibition/competition at the "Skali" Cultural Centre. Entry will be free and the competition is open to both IPMS and non-members. Information: Tel (357) 99574535 email: yiokis@cytanet.com.cy

April 4th

The Euro Model Expo is an all new exposition which will take place in the heart of Europe at the Westmuensterlandhalle Am Sportzentrum 7, 46359 Heiden, Germany. 10am to 5pm. The event for modellers, traders and clubs, who are dedicated to plastic modelling. We want to offer the opportunity of getting a bunch of information, the opportunity of learning new experiences and perhaps new friends. Finally we want to promote our great hobby with a contest, several demonstrations and work shop. Admission: Adults 5 Euros, Children 3 Euros. Contact: Berthold Tacke Phone: +49 (0) 251/2394929 Fax: +49 (0) 251/2394912 management@euromodelexpo.eu <http://www.euromodelexpo.eu>

April 5th

Shropshire Scale Modellers will be holding their annual show at the Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford. Opening times are 10am to 4pm with free admission and parking. For further info please contact: Gary Stevens on 01939 270481

April 19th

East Midlands Model Show 2009. The Leisure Centre, Hinkley, Leics. £4.00 adults, £2.50 Children and OAPs. Open: 10am - 4.30pm Many traders and club displays, refreshments and bar available, free carparking, easy disabled access and large open competition. Contact: Simon Mepstead 01455 230952 (Shop hours).

May 23rd

Scale ACT '09 will be held at the Harmonie German Club, 49 Jerrabomberra Avenue, Narrabundah, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT), AUSTRALIA. The event will feature scale model displays, competitions, local and interstate traders, a swap 'n' sell, and a dinner on the Saturday evening. Information: www.actsms.asn.au Mike Grieve (+61) 2 6291 1900

May 31st

IPMS Barnet will be holding The Hendon Scale Model Show at the Royal Air Force Museum, London, from 10am-6pm. Admission will be free as will the car parking and it's only 10 minutes from Junction 4 of the M1. For further info please contact hendonmodelshow@yahoo.co.uk

If you have an upcoming event that you would like featured on this page, please send all details to: editor@modelmilitary.com





▲ Rear three quarter view of an IDF BTR-40 liberally attired with Israeli webbing, rucksacks, jerry cans and Hebrew markings. From this angle the similarity to the US built M3A1 scout car (supplied to the Soviet Union in large numbers during the great patriotic war) is quite apparent.

BOXY BTR 40

Zackery Sex returns with another fascinating photo reference report, this time it's on an Israeli Defence Force BTR-40.

During WW II the western allies supplied the Soviet Union with large amounts of aircraft, armour and weaponry. While some of this armour was not entirely appreciated by the Russians due to what they considered its inferiority to their own equipment, western trucks and jeeps were in great demand. Russian units also found that the M3A1 scout car was particularly useful in the light armoured reconnaissance role, at

the conclusion of WWII or the Great patriotic war as it is referred to in Russia there was a requirement for a light armoured reconnaissance vehicle. The U.S. made M3A1 in its design heavily influences the first of a series of these vehicles, the BTR-40 and construction. The BTR-40 was quickly passed on by the Russian army to border guard units and later was replaced in its role by the BTR-152 and BTR-60. While seeing service with the Warsaw Pact countries it was throughout

the third world that the BTR-40 found its true niche being an easily operated and maintained vehicle. The BTR-40 has been used by the armies of Afghanistan, Cuba, Egypt, Syria, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos to name but a few. The Israelis captured vast quantities of Arab armour and equipment throughout the period of conflict from the late 50's to the mid 80's and amongst this was a small number of BTR-40s one of which is the subject of this walk around. ■



▲ Head on view showing the sharp angles of the front of this vehicle also visible are the engine access hatches and steel light guards.



▶ Rear access door showing door locking mechanism. Also visible to the left is the ammo stowage area for the FN MAGs or .30-cal machine guns when fitted.





References - ISRAELI DEFENCE FORCE BTR-40



▲ Elevated view through the rear doors of the interior. Visible below is the tow hitch and mounting steps. This shot gives a good idea of seating arrangements and internal stowage arrangements.



▲ Rear right-hand side view showing additional French Armee EM REC RT-68 radio unit mounted above a stowage area containing 4 more ammo boxes.



◀ Radio operator's position to the rear of driver and positioned above the rear axle, also visible are the ammo stowage and radio.



▲ Elevated view showing driver's station with clear view of the instrument panel and showing the limited viewing portal. Note the wooden stowage boxes on the extreme right of the photo.



▶ Elevated view of the right hand-side interior showing .50-cal ammo box and base of .50-cal machine gun mount.



References - ISRAELI DEFENCE FORCE BTR-40



▲ Detail shot of the rear tow hitch and hinged mounting steps.



► Detail shot of driver's door showing Israeli modification to enable ease of use.



▼ Detail shot of the driver's station showing personal weapon mount on the inside of the door and instrumentation panels.



◀ Elevated rear three quarter elevated shot of the boxy BTR-40.



▼ Lower three quarter view of the rear showing convoy lights and giving a good indication of the high clearance beneath the vehicle.

ACCURATE ARMOUR

1:35 PANTHER AUSF. G UPDATE FOR DML KITS ITEM NO. A116

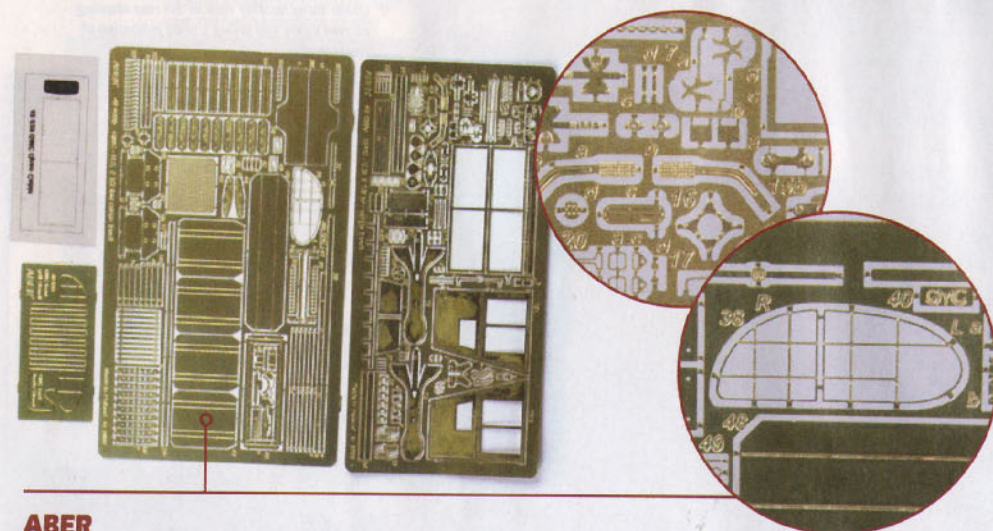
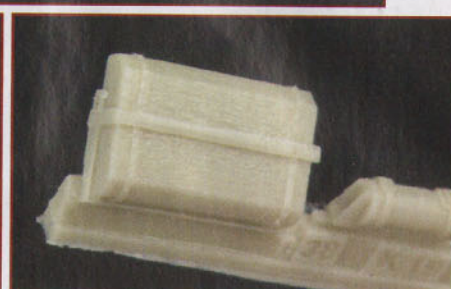
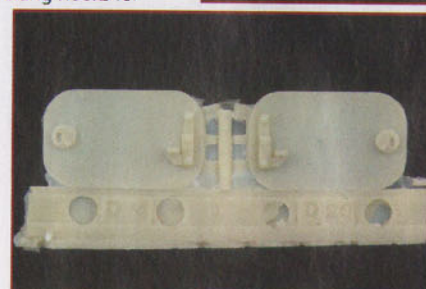
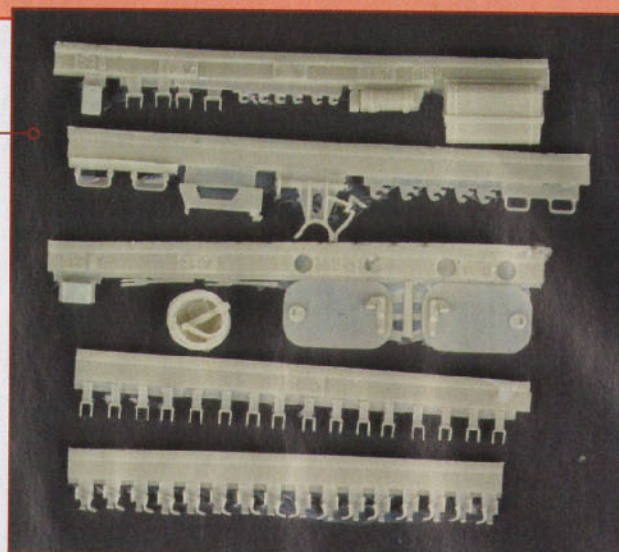
Dragon's latest generation Panther kits have been around for a little while now, and they can easily be called the best on the market today. One minor setback of the so called 'smart kit' of the Panther G is the omission of etched detail parts. Almost all of the parts have been provided in plastic, resulting in some overly thick details in certain places. Now there have been some etched brass update sets by various manufacturers, but Accurate Armour has come up with its own version of the 'smart kit', an all resin update set. This must be music to the ears of the modellers who like their kits detailed, but don't like fiddling around with numerous tiny brass parts.

The set consists of a number of very clearly cast parts that replace the overly thick plastic parts in the DML kit. You get new, very thin, spare track hanger brackets for the hull sides, these are a big improvement, as the kit parts are so thick you could not even fit the spare tracks into brackets provided in the kit! All of the schurzen brackets are also provided, which are again too thick in the DML kit. Other parts are nice and thin, such as the periscope guards, lifting hooks for the engine deck and retaining clamps for the tow cables. All of these parts will need careful removal from their casting blocks, but AA has thoughtfully provided more than enough extras. The two hatches for the driver and radio operator have some very good details, but look a bit too thin for my liking. My personal favourites are the beautiful gun travel lock, which is very nicely detailed, the jack block with refined wood texture, the track repair cable which is cast in situ on the reel and the fire extinguisher that goes on the tool rack.

All in all a very nice set to dress up your Panther G, especially if you don't like working with etched brass.

Available from www.accurate-armour.com

9.5/10 - Jan Peters



ABER

ETCHED DETAIL SETS AND TURNED METAL BARRELS

- 1:35 ADDITIONAL ACCESSORIES FOR U.S. VEHICLES, TOOL, RIFLE AND JERRY CAN RACKS ITEM NO. 35 A116
- 1:35 GERMAN 1.4M ANTENNA RODS X3 PCS ITEM NO. R-27
- 1:35 GERMAN KWK36 L/56 8.8CM BARREL WITH EARLY MUZZLE BRAKE FOR TIGER I ITEM NO. 35L-76
- 1:35 RUSSIAN 57MM ZIS-4 TANK BARREL FOR T-34/76 MODEL 1941 ITEM NO. 35L-73
- 1:48 GMC (CCKW) OPEN CABIN U.S. 2.5 TON CARGO TRUCK FOR TAMIYA KIT ITEM NO. 48 039
- 1:72 SET OF 5 BARRELS FOR GERMAN TANK MG34 MACHINE GUNS ITEM NO. 72L-33

A real mixed bag from the guys in Poland this month, including a set of amazingly tiny, yet beautifully detailed 1:72 MG-34 machine gun barrels in turned brass. This month also sees a very comprehensive set for Tamiya's 1:48 GMC Truck, this set is not for the faint hearted, including such items as an all new folding windscreen, which will actually fold once assembled as per the instructions, it also includes a new radiator grille made entirely from separate strips. Aber includes a jig to help with assembly, but the modeller will have to supply the patience of a saint and manual dexterity of a watchmaker to build them!

Having said this if you want to superdetail the GMC then look no further than this set as it also includes all the bits you really do need.

My personal favourites this month are the ZIS-4 gun barrel and the German 1.4m aerials. The barrel can be used on Dragon's T-34/76 Model 41 to turn it into the experimental 'Exterminator' which mounted this gun for better panzer killing power. The aerials are truly stunning and offer the option of keeping them as standard aerials or with the extra etched parts, turning them into the 'star' antennas seen on command vehicles. More great products and all recommended.

Available direct from www.aber.net.pl and in the UK from Historex Agents.

10/10 - The Editor



DRAGON

1:72 GRUPPE FEHRMANN TIGER I ITEM NO. 7357

Gruppe Fehrmann was a small battle group formed from the German Armour Schools in early 1945 and consisted of five Panthers and six Tiger Is. The Tigers are of particular interest as they consisted of a mish mash of early turrets with late hulls and are the subject of the latest release from Dragon. The kit itself consists of 138 plastic parts, 16 etched brass parts and a set of DS100 tracks. Most of the parts are crisply moulded and well detailed although some flash is evident. Highlights of this kit include: separately moulded tools; highly detailed steel road wheels and the spare track links mounted on the hull are all particularly well done. You also get a lot of spare parts with this kit including a gun barrel, turret stowage bin, mantlet, hatches, smoke dischargers and engine hatch. The only criticism I can level at this kit is the fact that the hull is based on the die-cast one which includes screw holes on the bottom, that said these can easily be filled. The Tigers in Gruppe Fehrmann were fairly unique therefore only one marking option is included and is finished in a very unusual scheme of dark green with light green with a red brown overspray. This is a great kit of an unusual subject and is recommended.

Available from all good model shops.

8.5/10 - Jeff Adams



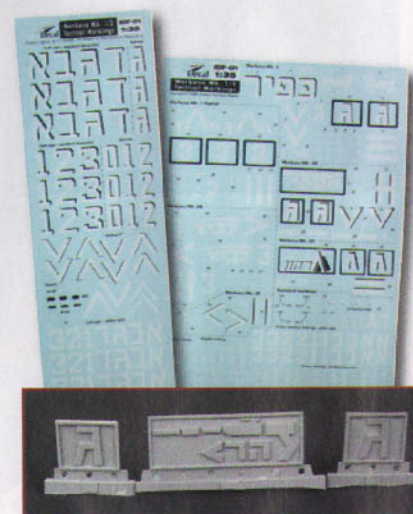
ISRADECALS

1:35 ISRAELI DEFENCE FORCE MERKAVA MK.1/2 TACTICAL MARKINGS ITEM NO. IDF-01 1:35 ISRAELI DEFENCE FORCE MERKAVA MK.3/4 TACTICAL MARKINGS ITEM NO. IDF-02

If you are a fan of Modern IDF armour, then these two sets of quality waterslide decals complete with resin plates are a must. Both sets consist of one and a half sheets of decals, three embossed resin parts to represent the large three-dimensional wooden tank and tac signs boards seen on some of the vehicles included in the very useful three-page colour instructions. Markings are included for Mk. 1 Hybrids, 2, 2B and 2D in the first set and for Mk.3, 3BAZ, 3D and Mk.4. Thanks to the likes of Academy and Legend Productions, all these vehicles are produced in 1:35, so you can really make full use of these excellent decals. Thoroughly recommended.

Available from www.isradecals.com

10/10 - The Editor



FUSION

1:35 ARMoured ISRAELI HUMMER ITEM NO. FUS 3502

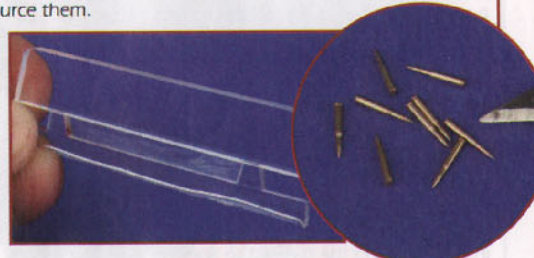
Fusion are a Canadian model company who have begun to branch out into the world of AFV conversions. According to the blurb on the packaging this conversion can be used on both the Italeri and Academy HUMVEE kits although on which exact versions it doesn't say. This is in fact a 2 in 1 box that allows you to make 2 different versions on the IDF vehicle, both from the 'late 1990s', with the differences coming from the positioning of external stowage and fittings.

The kit contains 56 mid grey resin pieces for the main box body, fittings and details and eight clear resin pieces for the windows. The resin is clearly cast with no air bubbles and contains sharp detail throughout. The side doors are provided separately and could be positioned open however no detail is provided on the inside surface.

The instructions take the form of a series of annotated colour photos of a completed model and are clear enough that they should make the build quite easy. The colour photos also provide the painting instructions and although no decals are provided the photos and accompanying text show you where relevant decals should go and where to source them.

This is quite an easy conversion and should pose no problem to anyone with a bit of modelling experience. High recommended. Available from www.dp9.com/fusion

9/10 - Graeme Carruthers



ARCHER FINE TRANSFERS

1:35 GERMAN FOREIGN LEGION PATCHES ITEM NO. FG35058

1:35 DEUTSCHE WAFFEN SS DIVISION'S UNIFORM PATCHES ITEM NO. FG35059

1:35 SS DIVISION'S EASTERN FRONT & BALKANS ITEM NO. FG35060

SURFACE DETAILS NO. 21 NON-SKID TEXTURE ITEM NO. AR88021

This month from Archer we have a selection of SS and German Foreign Legion uniform collar and cuff titles and a section of non-skid textured surface, designed for 1:32 to 1:24 aircraft walk ways. Looking at the cuff titles first, these are perfect for the numerous 1:35 German figures available in injection plastic or resin. As the uniform insignias are dry-rub they will need extreme care when applying them, but once on will look superb. The non-skid texture although designed for larger scale will be perfect for adding non-slip coatings to small scale modern armour, such as the Leopard, Bradley or Abrams to name but a few. All you need to do, is cut the panels to size and apply like regular waterslide decals, the only difference is that they are applied before you paint the model. Good to know products designed for the darkside (aircraft modelling) can be useful to us armour modellers.

Available direct from www.archertransfers.com and Historex Agents in the UK

9.5/10 (9.5, only because the cuffs will be tricky to apply) - The Editor



BLACK DOG SD.KFZ.222 1:48 FOR ICM KIT ITEM NO. T48048

New to the 1:48 scale scene is a Czech company called Black Dog, which has released a good selection of stowage items and accessories sets to complement several of the 1:48 scale kits available.

I purchased mine to try out with an ICM 222, which is being built for a future article.

The set comes in a sturdy box with a photo of the kit featuring all the pieces in place. There are no instructions or other photos to show correct fitment etc., but this isn't really a problem as it's fairly obvious where all the items go.

What you get are several individual resin stowage blocks featuring canvas rolls, backpacks, containers and jerry cans etc, all cast to a very high standard. Each has a small resin pour block to remove first. I was very impressed as to how well all the items including the very large rear stowage section drop fitted onto the kit, even after all the alterations I had made to the original kit, most impressed.

All the items were well moulded as said and I found only two very small air bubbles, which were easily filled.

Overall this is a great set for the ICM 222 and once painted and in installed will add enough interest to bring the base kit to another level. Black Dog have several other sets to dress up the available 1:48 kits and I would recommend having a look at their website - www.blackdog.cz Mine was purchased from the "quarter scale shop" in Paris on a recent trip. Highly recommended.

Available in the UK from www.armour-models.co.uk and Parabellum.

9.5/10 - Doug frame



GASO.LINE

1:48 RESIN DETAIL SETS

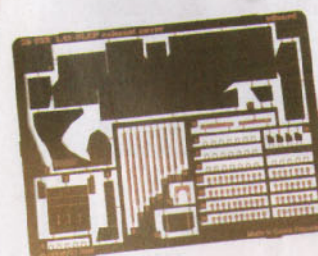
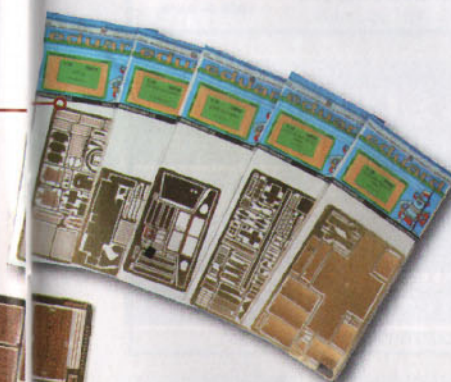
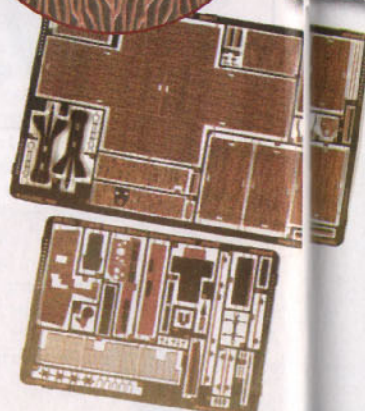
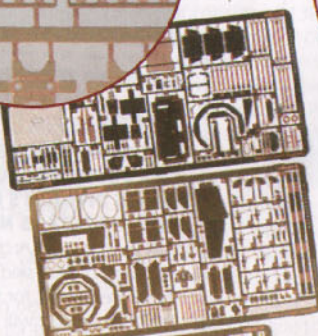
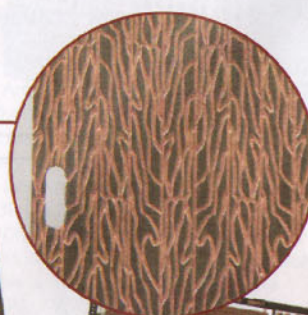
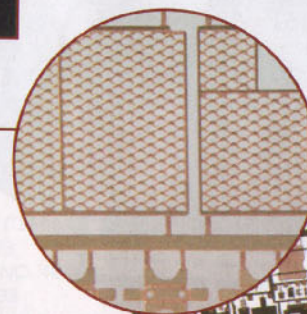
WHEEL AND TARPULIN SET FOR TAMIYA'S U.S. M20 ITEM NO. GAS48061

This handy little set has been designed to 'winterize' Tamiya's 1:48 M20 armoured car. Included are six new resin wheels complete with nicely detailed snow chains, a foul weather cover for the roof opening and a small selection of personal gear to hang from between the headlights. I really like this set, the wheels look great with their delicate chains, all of which are perfectly cast and the tarpaulin with its realistic creases, really makes for a quality update set. To me the M20 looks much meaner with the snow chains and the rain cover in place, it also saves painting the interior if you're feeling a bit lazy!

Recommended 100%.

Available from www.gaso-line.eu/gaso-line.htm

10/10 - The Editor



EDUARD

1:35 ETCHED DETAIL SETS

- LAV C-2 FOR TRUMPETER KIT ITEM NO. 36037
- LAV-SLEP EXHAUST COVER FOR TRUMPETER KIT ITEM NO. 36039
- DUKW BRITISH ROYAL ARMY INTERIOR FOR ITALERI KIT ITEM NO. 36045
- DUKW BRITISH ROYAL ARMY EXTERIOR FOR ITALERI KIT ITEM NO. 36048
- DUKW SURF PLATES FOR ITALERI KIT ITEM NO. 36049

Eduard's latest releases have a definite amphibian theme, with sets for the USMC LAV C2 Command vehicle and the ubiquitous DUKW (Duck). The basic set for the LAV includes all the usual goodies, such as engine grilles, jerry can holders, tool-rack and lots and lots of smaller fittings, such as tie-downs and straps and hatch handles. There is also a very nice replacement swim-vane included to replace the overly thick kit part on the front of the hull. The second set for the LAV can be used on all variants and is the improved exhaust system cover, fitted as part of the (SLEP) Service Life Extension Program and is seen on all LAVs now being used on operations in the Middle East.

The three sets designed for Italieri's DUKW are everything you could possibly need in the way of etched brass to go completely mad with the super-detailing. The base kit is typical Italieri, very good, but a bit basic when it comes to the little refinements. Well thanks to Eduard you can really go to town on it. The only area I'm not sure on with the Eduard stuff is the wooden cargo deck, I'm not convinced that etched brass can really offer a realistic wood-grain effect, I think I will have to see what it looks like under a coat of paint and appropriate weathering.

Highly recommended.

Available direct from www.eduard.cz and in the UK by LSA Models.

9.5/10 - The Editor

UM MODEL

1:48 GAZ-AAA TRUCK KIT NO. 503

A new manufacturer to the 1:48 scale scene is Russian company UM who already have a large line in 1:72, some 1:35 vehicles and 1:48 aircraft (that's those wingy things).

Its first foray into this scale looks like one of their 1:35 scale trucks of the ubiquitous GAZ-AAA soviet truck, scaled down and done in plastic. The UM Model kit comes with attractive artwork to the box cover and inside you will find a large bag containing 4 main sprue sets. With an additional smaller bag containing the clear parts and vinyl tyres along side a very small etch fret.

The plastic is of that lovely Russia green beloved of their kits and real military vehicles. Moulding is clean and flash free although a little soft in areas, however this does not detract from the overall feeling of a well produced kit. My only comment would be that the rear truck bed and sides that are in wood maybe could have a better wood-grain finish to them, but nothing any competent modeller wouldn't be able to add on. The small etch fret contains parts for enhancing the engine block and fine details around the kit. The engine itself would benefit from a little wiring etc and would look great once painted if you were to remove or modify the engine cooling louvers or open up the hood (bonnet), to show it off.

The tyres are the slight let down, with the kit being moulded in that black shiny vinyl to which no paint shall attach long term and usually shrinks etc. These are offered as separate items to the plastic hubs and a quick test fit proved positive, with good detail to the tread pattern. However I know Hauler have just released a full resin wheel/hub set for this kit so giving you a choice.

A full canvas tilt is supplied and although the sag is well represented the ends have blank plastic, I suppose you could add this but I would hope the resin boys might fancy a go?

A very clear instruction manual is provided with marking layouts for 2 vehicles, although on examining the decal sheet I saw markings for a captured Wehrmacht example also.

The GAZ-AAA like its single rear axle sister was produced in huge quantities through WWII and into the 1960s with upgrades of course and was converted to many a role some of which UM Model already show on their 1:72 catalogue and it would be great to see them enlarge their 1:48 scale range with some of these additions.

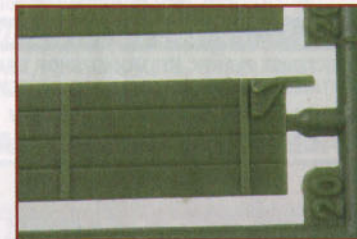
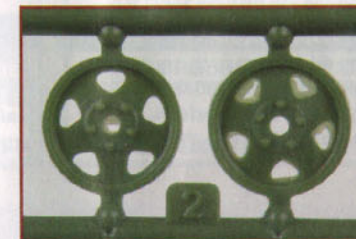
As I write this review I see Hauler have mentioned several upgrade sets listed for the Gaz-AAA. These being -
HLX48269 GAZ-AAA snow/mud tracks
HLX48268 GAZ-AAA resin wheels
HLX48266 GAZ-AAA basic detail set.

UM Model are to be welcomed to the scale with this kit and I am very much looking forward to their future releases.

Recommended.

UM are distributed in the UK by PocketBond.

7.5/10 - Doug Frame



TIGER MODEL DESIGNS

M5/M8 SERIES EXHAUST DEFLECTORS W/PE SCREENS TO FIT ALL ITEM NO. 24403

AFV Club's M5A1 Stuart has been on the market for quite some time. It's a good model, but there's one thing that should be added for an accurate version - exhaust deflectors. These were a standard fitting to most US Army tanks, to prevent the exhaust from kicking out a load of dust.

TMD provides us with a set of exhaust deflectors, for kits from all manufacturers. This means both the ancient Tamiya M5A1 and M8 and the aforementioned AFV Club M5A1.

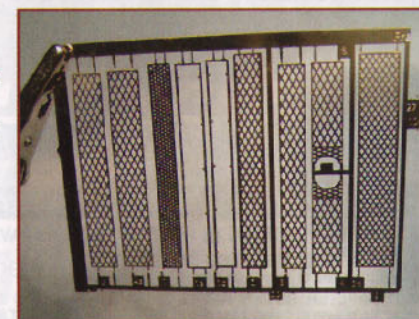
In the set are 12 resin pieces, and a photo etched fret with 10 pieces. Casting is crisp, with some thin flash to be removed.

The slats on the deflector are thinly moulded. We get two lower exhaust deflectors, one upper deflector and the associated exhaust pipes, hinged brackets and screens. Instructions are fair, but I feel some more info could have been provided regarding the type of deflector. You get the choice between an early and later lower deflector. The former is a one piece affair, where the latter is a two piece version, allowing a towing pintle to be mounted. The PE is good, but a bit thick. Besides the screening needed for the deflectors, you also get screening for the engine deck grilles, a nice touch!

Recommended for updating your M5A1 or M8.

Available from www.tigermodels.com and in the UK from www.armour-models.co.uk and Historex Agents.

8/10 - Martin Dogger



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"ROAD BLOCK TO ROAD SIGN"
Doug Frame places Tamiya's 1:48th KV-2 into
an imaginative vignette.



SHINING LIGHTNING

Nick Shuttleworth gets to grips with Legend Productions' Merkava Mk.111 Baz, let the battle commence...



FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

Next Issue
On sale February 5th 2009

OPERATION VARSITY 1945
MMI welcomes Dickson Oh and his stunning
vignette based around the Dragon U.S.
Airborne figure set of the same name

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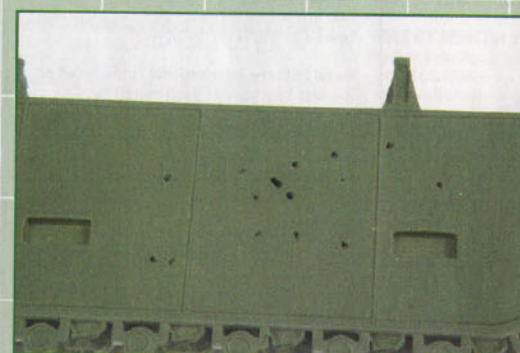


...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

SOFT SKIN BATTLE DAMAGE *PART 2*

Last month we showed how to create bullet and shrapnel damage to lightly armoured and soft skin unarmoured vehicles. This month will offer some tips for painting and weathering this battle damage. Remember this rusty finish is only applicable to armour made from steel and not aluminium!



The sponson was first painted in the basic camouflage colour scheme. In this case using Tamiya's TS-28 Olive Drab 2 spray can.



The next step involved painting on various dark brown and rust coloured acrylic paints. This is best done with a good quality fine tipped brush.



The paints chosen included Panzer Aces Tracks' Primer (304), Model Color Black (950), Burnt Umber (941) and finally Panzer Aces Light Rust (301).



Once happy with the way the acrylics looked, the next step was to moisten the area prior to adding the oil paints. This was done using Odourless Turpentine from Mig Productions



While the surface is still wet, a combination of 502 Abteilung's Dark Rust and German Ochre were carefully brushed down vertically from each of the holes and gouges.



All of the holes and gouges have had oil paint streaks added. The advantage of using a moistened surface with oil paints is that it allows plenty of time for manipulation or to correct any areas that haven't come out as hoped.

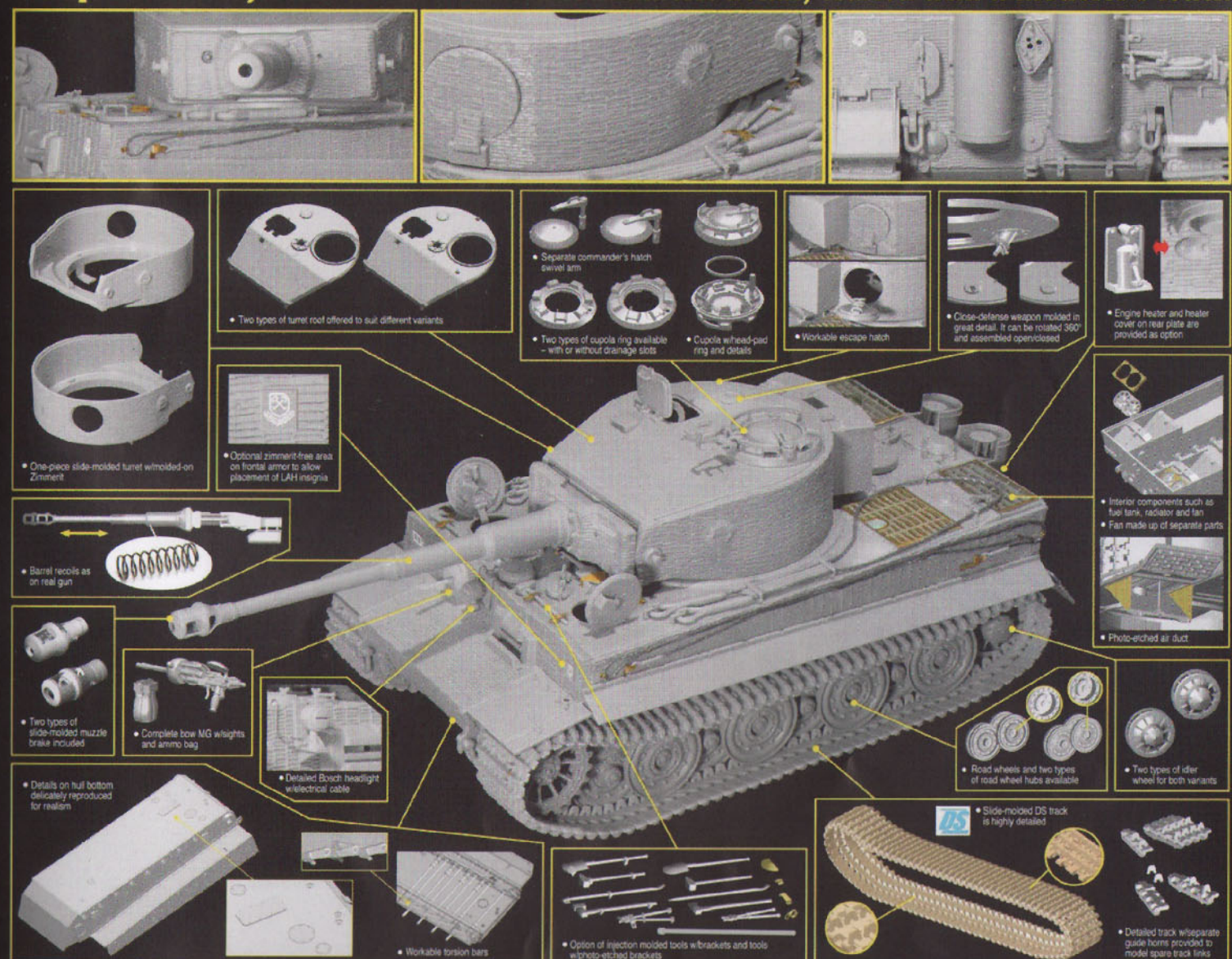


Once the oil paints and turpentine have been allowed to dry fully, the next step was to add some pigments, which by their nature are perfect for recreating powdery rust deposits. This was concentrated around the actual holes.

Thanks to Creative Models for supplying the Mig Productions Pigment and the 502 Abteilung oil paints, brushes and Odourless Turpentine and the Vallejo colours used.



Complete with injection molded authentic Zimmerit detail, crafted with a modeler's touch



Panzerjäger "Jagdtiger" (Sd.Kfz.186) Frühe Produktion



The Last of the Breed

1/35 German Heavy Tank Destroyer Jagdtiger Early Production Item 35295

The Jagdtiger was the German army's representative heavy tank destroyer in late-WWII and was also the world's most powerful AFV at the time. This member of the Tiger family has not seen a recent model release, so Tamiya has thoroughly studied the actual vehicle and completely redesigned this assembly kit to commemorate the 40th anniversary of our 1/35 scale MM Series. The imposing form, including the hull, which was even longer than the King Tiger's, towering superstructure, and massive main gun barrel has been accurately reproduced. Realistic surface details such as the cast metal texture of the gun mantlet as well as cut and weld marks on the hull are also present. Inside the superstructure you will find a highly detailed gun mount and gun breech, which can be showcased by removing the roof of the superstructure. Various accessory parts on the outside of the hull, including a gun travel lock that can be assembled in either stowed or deployed position, provide modelers with additional diorama creation possibilities.

Includes commander and driver torso figures.

5 types of historically accurate markings included.

Photo-etched parts are included to depict engine grilles.



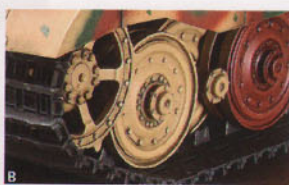
Length: 301mm

Choose from either belt type or assembly type tracks.

Early Production features such as the jack and spare track link racks are thoroughly replicated.

Includes Photo Reference & Painting Guide

The kit will conveniently include a full color Painting Guide, and the first production run will also include a limited edition Photo Reference with pictures of the actual AFV.



The separately-molded roof can be removed to showcase the interior, including the compartment floor, gun mount, and gun breech that can be assembled in recoiled position. The road wheel discs have been reproduced as separate parts to enable a more realistic appearance.



◀ Photo Reference

▲ Painting Guide



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